

# The Church Officers' Gazette

Vol. 27 JANUARY, 1940 No. 1

## Administrrating the Conference Church

**N**EARLY every conference has a large number of scattered believers who do not have the pleasure of church privileges, since they are too far away from any local organization. It is for this class of members, as well as for the aged or infirm persons who live adjacent to a local church, that the conference church is organized. Of its organization we read in the "Church Manual," page 85:

"The conference officers are the officers of the conference church, and the conference committee acts on all matters pertaining to receiving and dismissing members."

In the operation of the conference church there are problems which sometimes perplex; yet the following plan has proved quite successful, although it is not claimed by any means to be completely adequate.

In a conference in which the territory is under supervision of district leaders, these problems are simplified. In such cases, the names of all affiliated believers who are enrolled in the conference church in each district are furnished the leader, who will plan for regular visits among these members. He will either visit them as he makes trips about his territory, or will call special meetings in various sections of his district to which he will invite all who are near enough to attend.

Occasions such as Sabbath school conventions, church officers' meetings, week-end rallies, et cetera, afford for these isolated ones a fine opportunity for spiritual refreshing, as well as the privilege of meeting with other believers.

A letter announcing such plans should be sent early, so that they may arrange to attend, and in some in-



stances in which members are driving a long distance it may be possible to arrange with them to accommodate others who have no means of conveyance, and bring them to the meeting.

While the camp meeting is the usual time for conducting ordinances of the Lord's house for conference church members, there may be opportunity at these special gatherings to arrange for special services. This information concerning the qualifications for conducting ordinances is found in the "Church Manual," page 27:

"Only ordained ministers or ordained elders holding office are qualified to do this. A person holding a ministerial license from the conference is not qualified thereby to conduct the communion services or to administer baptism, unless he is the regularly elected local leader of that particular church."

The foregoing precludes the conducting of these ordinances for these isolated believers by the licentiate, even though he be the district leader, and perhaps may be ordained as a local elder, unless these people meet in the

local church where he is elected and ordained to serve.

Another valuable contact may be made by a general letter once a month from the conference office to all the isolated. These may be written by the conference president, secretary, treasurer, or any one of the departmental secretaries, thus affording the isolated believer by this method acquaintance with the conference staff.

Again, all conference workers who drive about the conference should be given the names and locations of the isolated who may live on the way of their route, that a short visit may be made, and, wherever possible, prayer should be offered in every home. Frequently the nonmember husband may be thus attracted.

Another method of contact is by definitely assigning a worker to visit all small companies, small churches, and the isolated members who seldom see one of our ministers, spending a day, a week end, a full week, or longer, according to the needs and the opportunity. He will more than likely baptize as many during the year as he would if his time were given wholly to regular evangelical work.

The Harvest Ingathering campaign affords another good time for visiting and for leading these isolated members to visit their neighbors in this missionary endeavor, thereby opening the way for spreading the truth.

The conference church can be made a valuable asset to any conference if care and attention are properly bestowed. The conference president will be well repaid for making it his business to visit every such conference church member within his conference.

M. A. HOLLISTER.

## Two Questions Considered

FROM a church in a western conference the following questions are sent in:

1. "Can eleven out of a church membership of fifty-three legally grant letters for transfer of membership, or disfellowship members?"

2. "Our church elder recently called a business meeting. At this meeting he announced that we had met to elect two church officers—a deaconess and a church clerk. Seven of the fifty-three members of the church were present. Two of these seven were elected by the other five. Is this a legal election?"

Referring to question two first, the answer would depend upon whether the announcement of this church business meeting was made at a time or in such manner as to reach all, or at least most, of the church membership. If so, and in response to this call only seven members were present, we know of no rule whereby it would be possible to declare that the business attended to at that meeting was illegal. Surely it was to be regretted that more of the church members were not present to take part in the business of the hour; yet all notified had the same opportunity of attending as did the seven present. Since the others were not present, it devolved upon those who were there to give consideration to the items of business to be given attention at that time.

In the filling of vacancies in church offices which occur between general elections at the close of each year, however, we believe the better way is that set forth in the August, 1939, issue of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE. In a word, this is, upon the announcement by the elder that a vacancy, or vacancies, in church officers has taken place, for the church to proceed as follows—quoting from the article mentioned above:

### By Vote of the Church

"As in the selection of officers for the ensuing year at the close of the year, the church maintains the authority to choose the one who is to fill the vacancy. By its vote it may request the church board to act as its representative committee in nominating a person for the office. . . . Upon the vote of the church adopting the report of the church board, the newly elected officer or officers enter upon their appointed service."

The church board as such has no more authority to appoint this new officer, or even to nominate the one to

fill a vacancy, without the vote of the church authorizing it to do so, than it has to select and appoint the nominating committee to bring to the church the names of the officers for the church at the time they are chosen at the close of the year. It is by vote of the church that vacancies are filled during the year.

### Transferring and Withdrawing the Hand of Fellowship of Church Members

The same principle would hold good in reply to the first question. Receiving and transferring of church membership, also the withdrawing the hand of fellowship, at once pertain to the most important questions that come to the church for its consideration. This being true, we may reasonably con-

taken. Experience teaches the wisdom in thus providing time for further consideration. A change in the proposed action is at times thus effected, with results helpful to the best interests of the church.

The dismissal of a church member should not be effected until the Saviour's instruction in Matthew 18 is faithfully carried out. In the endeavor to win the offending one to repentance, and to renewed loyalty to the sanctifying truths of the word, the church is made the last place of appeal in the effort to save the straying one before the hand of fellowship is finally withdrawn. "Ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness," is the word given us.

T. E. B.

❖ ❖

### Do Something

If the world seems cold to you,  
Kindle fires to warm it!  
Let their comfort hide from you  
Winters that deform it.  
Hearts as frozen as your own  
To that radiance gather;  
You will soon forget to moan,  
"Ah! the cheerless weather!"

If the world's a "vale of tears,"  
Smile till rainbows span it.  
Breathe the love that life endears—  
Clear from clouds to fan it.  
Of your gladness lend a gleam  
Unto souls that shiver;  
Show them how dark sorrow's stream  
Blends with hope's bright river.  
—Selected.

**Special Appointments  
for January**

**Home Missionary Day,  
January 6**

**Liberty Magazine Campaign,  
January 6-27**

**Second Sabbath Missions  
Offering, January 13**

**Religious Liberty Day and  
Offering, January 27**

clude that these questions should be considered at a time when the largest number of church members are present. Usually the transfer of membership is attended to at the regular Sabbath service. The names of those requesting letters to unite with another church, also the names of those who desire to unite with the church, are read by the church clerk at the request of the elder. This report to the church is spoken of as the "first reading." The report is then laid over one week for final action. This gives the whole church the opportunity to consider the names presented for letters of transfer, or the names of those who wish to unite with the church. Should some question arise in the mind of a member, or should some known reason in his judgment lead him to conclude that further study should be given the proposed action touching any name submitted, opportunity is thus given for the member to confer with the church officers on the subject during the week before final action is

## The Church Officers' Gazette

Issued monthly

Printed and published by the

REVIEW AND HERALD PUB. ASSN.  
at Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

### Subscription Rates

United States and Canada

Yearly subscription - - - \$1.00

Clubs of two or more copies to one

address, one year, each - - .85

Foreign Countries Where Extra Postage

Is Required

Yearly subscription - - - \$1.15

Clubs of two or more copies to one

address, one year, each - - 1.00

EDITOR - - - T. E. BOWEN

Associate Editors

Steen Rasmussen, Alfred W. Peterson

Assistant Editors: Mrs. Grace D. Mace,

Mrs. Marjorie W. Marsh

### EDITORIAL COUNCIL

M. N. Campbell, M. E. Kern, H. T. Elliott

Entered as second-class matter, January 26, 1914, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



## God's Program for His Church

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, January 6, 1940

OPENING SONG: "Never Stand Still," No. 651 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 4.

PRAYER.

MISSIONARY OFFERING.

SONG: "The Watching Church," No. 636.

READING: "The Ideal Church," by H. J. Detwiler.

SONG: "Baptize Us Anew," No. 134.

READING: "The Church at Work," by J. W. MacNeil.

SYMPOSIUM: Invitation by various band leaders to "Come Thou With Us."

COVENANTING FOR SERVICE: Signing the Covenant Blanks.

CLOSING SONG: "Faith of Our Fathers," No. 678.

BENEDICTION.

#### Notes to Leaders

The first Sabbath in the new year is a good time, as the song suggests, to—

"Come, let us anew  
Our journey pursue,  
Roll round with the year,  
And never stand still  
Till the Master appear."

It is a time to check up on the missionary organization of the church, and make sure that all the missionary officers elected for the year are fully informed as to their duties, and that every member of the church is assigned to a post of duty. We have therefore chosen as our theme "The Ideal Church," or, "God's Program for His Church," and are happy to pass on the excellent articles from the pen of a union president, a conference president, and a union home missionary secretary. It is expected that the pastor or church elder will use these articles entire or in part, as he may consider most effective for the object in view, accompanied by his own personal emphasis and appeal to the church members.

May we suggest that this is a very appropriate time to call the band lead-

ers into concerted action. It would be well for the leader of each topical band—Lay Evangelism (which includes lay preaching and Bible training and work), Literature, Dorcas-Welfare, Home-Foreign, etc., to give a brief report of what the band has accomplished during the past year, and after making clear the purpose of the band, and the need, as well as the joy which has attended the work, to extend an invitation to the entire church to join the various bands at this time. It will be worth while for the church members to know just who the leaders of the various bands are, and to understand definitely the plan of work for the current year. Then pass out the covenant blanks, which will be provided in ample time for this service, with a view to getting every member of the church enrolled for definite lines of service. This is vitally essential if we would reach the standard of the ideal church. It might be well to place the list of missionary activities on the blackboard, thus enabling the church members to study the broad field of personal service and to be better able to decide where to begin. May the year 1940 mark a mighty advance in the layman's missionary movement throughout this weary and bewildered world.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.



### The Ideal Church

BY H. J. DETWILER

President, Columbia Union Conference



THE church is "God's appointed agency for the salvation of man." Its mission therefore is to carry the gospel to all the inhabited parts of earth. In every age

it has consisted of faithful men and women animated with one supreme purpose—to carry the glad tidings of salvation "wherever man is found." It has been described as a theater of divine grace "in which He [God] delights to reveal His power to transform hearts." The true church has always earnestly striven to make God's name and truth a praise and an honor in the earth.

How can these lofty ideals be best attained? What are the leading characteristics of such an organization of Christian believers? Just as the character of an individual indicates what sort of person he is, so also the character of the church best reveals its identity, its mission and purpose in the world. The Lord has definitely spoken concerning this matter, as the following words clearly indicate: "The real character of the church is measured, not by the high profession she makes, not by the names enrolled on her books, but by what she is actually doing for the Master, by the number of her persevering, faithful workers."—"Gospel Workers," p. 200.

#### A Well-organized Army

The ideal church may be very fittingly represented by a well-disciplined

and well-organized army. As in the army, so in the church, there is need of leaders—generals, captains, sergeants, etc.; but most of the fighting is done by the men in the ranks. The officers carry great responsibility, but the success of every engagement with the enemy depends largely upon the fidelity and faithfulness of every soldier in the ranks.

The church of God is called upon to conduct an aggressive warfare with the powers of darkness, and in this engagement God has appointed "to every man his work." "Every member should be a channel through which He can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ." This is the duty of every soldier in the army of the Lord. Of primary importance, then, is the organization of the church for service.

#### Each One Assigned to a Post of Duty

We have often read the statement, "The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others. . . . Let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become laborers together with God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 49.

When an active missionary spirit characterizes each individual member of the church, then the world will be led to know that we have a living religion. In the organization of the ideal church every member should be assigned his post of duty. He should be fully instructed and set to work systematically and continuously. A thorough organization of all the working forces of the church is imperative. How can this best be brought about? The following counsel is given:

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for un-

believers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. Let them keep their bond of union unbroken, pressing together in love and unity, encouraging one another to advance, each gaining courage and strength from the assistance of the others."—*Id.*, Vol. VII, pp. 21, 22.

Experience has taught us that where this plan is followed, no task is too great, no requirement an impossibility, regardless of the magnitude of the undertaking. In this way the talent of every man and woman is utilized for laboring in the fast-ripening harvest field.

#### A Dependable Church

Such a church will be like a beehive. There will be no place for the slothful or the self-indulgent, no drones. The watchword of that church will be "Forward." Its vision will not be local or provincial alone, but world wide. A desire for the salvation of the lost will be its prevailing passion, and by it every denominational plan, interest, and objective will be freely accepted and promoted in the order of its importance. Such a church is one that can always be depended upon.



The ideal church will recognize as of primary importance the need for the education of its children and youth, and will fully provide for them. In its plan, or organization, the youth have an important and growing part. It cares for its aged, sick, and isolated members. It provides for the regular and systematic observance of all the ordinances of the Lord's house. In such a church, our official organ, the *Review and Herald*, makes its weekly visit to the homes of the believers, and the progress of the work in all the world becomes a matter of common knowledge and interest.

The atmosphere of the ideal church is warm and glowing, not frigid and depressing. Its services are a delight, and its fellowship is heavenly. Its aims are lofty and stimulating. In it the spirit of self-sacrifice and self-denial prevails. Appeals for increased gifts to advance the work of God both at home and abroad find a ready response, for such a church is animated by a missionary spirit. The ideal church recognizes the claim that Christ's servants are to make use of every resource for enlarging His kingdom. Its highest aim is to win souls to Christ. Said the prophet, "Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people." Isa. 56:7. In it the members "find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless. Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 12, 13.



#### The Watching Church

LORD, her watch Thy church is keeping;  
When shall earth Thy rule obey?  
When shall end the night of weeping?  
When shall break the promised day?

See the whit'ning harvest languish,  
Waiting still the lab'ers' toil;  
Was it vain, Thy Son's deep anguish?  
Shall the strong retain the spoil?

Tidings, sent for ev'ry creature  
Millions yet have never heard;  
Can they hear without a preacher?  
Lord Almighty, give the word;

Give the word; in ev'ry nation  
Let the gospel trumpet sound,  
Witnessing of Thy salvation  
To the earth's remotest bound.

—*"Christ in Song,"* No. 636.

### Divine Promises to the Church

THE church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 600.

## The Church at Work

BY J. W. MACNEIL

President, Potomac Conference



IN Ephesians the fourth chapter and the eleventh and twelfth verses, we read, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." The last verse, as rendered by different Bible versions, takes on a broader meaning than might at first appear. In the American Revised Version, it is stated that the gifts in the church are "*for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering;*" and the Twentieth Century New Testament reads, "*to fit His people for the work of the ministry.*" Another translation is even more explicit, reading, "*for the perfecting of the saints until they are to do all kinds of ministry.*" There is an impression in the minds of many people that ministers are chosen and paid to do all ministry of the church, and the business of the congregation is to sit by and watch them work. But that is not God's plan. He does not expect the pastor to do all the work of the church, but He has placed a variety of gifts in the church in order to fit His people to do "all kinds of ministry."

When the church of God becomes what God designed it should be—a body of believers fitted for all kinds of Christian ministry; and when each member is perfected, or instructed in the particular ministry to which his gift applies, and is assigned his definite place in that ministry; and is not only assigned to his place, but is actually filling his place faithfully and unceasingly; I believe that then a power will be seen in the church such as was witnessed on the day of Pentecost, and the loud cry of the third angel's message will encircle the earth.

The accompanying diagram furnishes a suggestive list of the various missionary activities of the church. There may be other activities which should be added, but this is a brief outline of the possibilities within the church membership of this denomina-

tion. First, under Christian help work, we might refer to the ministry of visiting the sick, the needy, the discouraged, the inquiring, both outside and inside the church. In every community there are hospitals filled with people who long for a friendly handclasp and a cheering word, and in homes everywhere are to be found those who are shut in because of sickness, accident, or misfortune. God expects the members of the church to search out the sick and the poor, to minister to them, and to carry to them His message of love and compassion and the promise of His return to banish sin and its blight upon human lives. There is something about such ministry which has a reflex action in our own lives.

### Visiting the Sick

One Friday evening, just as I had settled down in my study to prepare for the service on Sabbath morning, the telephone rang, and a pleading voice at the other end of the line said, "Father is dying. Can you come right away?" All else was forgotten, and I hastened to the home, taking with me one of our brethren, a trained nurse, who was the superintendent of the Sabbath school. The brother entered into this service rather reluctantly, as

he felt that his duties on the morrow were all that he could care for. But I knew something of the conditions to be met in the sickroom, and I also knew that the experience would be of value in counteracting a somewhat chronic spirit of criticism—of the preacher, the leaders, and the church in general.

The daughter who had called me met us at the door and explained the situation. The father was not a Christian, and had ridiculed the fact that his daughter had united with the Seventh-day Adventist church. It was not expected that the man would live through the night, and the mother and daughter were in great distress. The daughter said to us, "You know mother is an invalid. She wants to say good-by to dad." So we helped to get the invalid mother into a wheel chair and took her to the bedside of her dying husband. I shall never forget the scene, as that poor wife and mother bade farewell to her husband, whom she never expected to see again in this world or in the world to come. Then we persuaded the mother and daughter to try to get a few hours' rest, assuring them that we would do everything possible for the sick man, and would notify them of any change.

## Missionary Pillars of the Ideal Church

(Outline as covered by Elder J. W. MacNeil in "The Church at Work")

I		IV	
CHRISTIAN HELP—(Embracing Deacons Welfare Society, Missionary Men's Society, etc.)		CORRESPONDENCE WORKERS	
1. Outside Visiting		1. Home Bible Study League	
a. Hospitals		2. Encouragement, etc.	
b. Needy Poor		V	
c. Sick		CHURCH LIBRARY	
d. Interested Inquirers		1. Denominational Literature	
2. Inside Visiting		2. Free Circulating Library	
a. Sick Members		3. Reading Course Sets	
b. Discouraged Members		VI	
c. Absent Members		EDUCATION—(Maintaining the Church School)	
d. New Members		VII	
3. Training Classes		PRAYER BANDS	
a. Health Study Circles		1. "Win One" Endeavor	
b. Home Nursing		VIII	
c. Cooking		SABBATH SCHOOL	
d. Sanitation and Hygiene		1. Gather in From Neighborhood	
II		IX	
LITERATURE—(Embracing All Missionary Periodicals, etc.)		MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS	
1. Present Truth		1. Conservation of Our Youth	
2. Reading Racks		X	
3. Magazines		HOME-FOREIGN RESPONSIBILITIES	
4. Small Books		1. Foreign Language Literature	
5. Large Books		Distribution	
6. Tracts		2. Friendly Contacts	
III			
PERSONAL WORKERS—(Lay Evangelism)			
1. Lay Preachers			
2. Lay Bible Workers			

My friend the superintendent of the Sabbath school, with a nurse's intuition, knew just what should be done, and we both did our best to make the sick man comfortable, praying earnestly all the time that, if it was God's will, He would give the man one more chance to accept of salvation.

About two o'clock in the morning, the nurse told me that the crisis was approaching, and that within an hour we would know whether the patient was to live or die. So we worked and prayed. By five o'clock it was apparent that a decided change for the better had taken place. The sick man revived and began to talk. Seeing us at his bedside, he called to me, and said, "You are the best doctor I have had. What is your name?" "No, I am not a doctor," I replied. "Is he the doctor?" he said, pointing to the nurse. "No, he is not a doctor either." "Well, who are you?" "I am the preacher," I replied. "Are you my daughter's preacher?" "Yes, sir, I am." I shall never forget the look on that man's face. The Spirit of the Lord was at work on his heart, and soon he said, "Well, I have known the truth for twenty-five years, but never obeyed!" "It is not too late now, my brother," I replied. "But I would be a coward if, after forsaking God all these years, I should turn to serve Him now." "No; that would be the bravest and noblest thing you ever did," I said. Then I sat down by his side and tried to talk to him as I would to a young child, urging him to yield and place himself in the hands of God.

It was not long until he asked us to pray for him, and the nurse, kneeling by my side, united with me in an earnest petition. At the close of the prayer, he said to us, "I have decided to give my heart to God, and now I want you to offer another prayer. I want you to pray that God will restore me to health, even for just two or three weeks, so that I may demonstrate to those I know that I have given my heart to God." We prayed as he requested, and the eternal God heard and granted the request.

Just as we ended the prayer service, the daughter came into the room, and her first inquiry was, "Is father still alive?" "Yes," I said, "your father is better. And I want to tell you that something even more wonderful has happened—your father has given his heart to God." At first she could not

believe what I said, but after I had explained more fully, she rushed away to tell her mother. "Take me to see him quickly!" exclaimed the mother. That dear old invalid, who had not been able to walk for years, tried to get out of her chair to go to her husband. But we wheeled the chair over to the bedside, and she put her arms around her husband's neck. "Mother," he said, "I have given my heart to God. I am going to be with you in the kingdom." I never witnessed a scene so beautiful. The joy which filled our hearts as we ministered for Christ in the sickroom, and as we saw a sinner saved by the grace of God, will never be forgotten. The Lord restored the man to health for a period of a few weeks, during which he improved every opportunity to witness for God, and then he passed to his rest, in strong assurance of meeting the Saviour on the resurrection morning.

The Sabbath services were conducted as usual, only there seemed to be a new meaning and a new joy to it all. Everybody seemed to cooperate, and everything went well. Near the close of the day, my friend, who had been hesitant about visiting the sick man, came to have a little talk with me, and this is what he said: "Not for many years have I enjoyed a day with the Lord as I have today. I am so thankful to you for insisting that I go with you last night. It has put a new experience into my soul. I have been critical and faultfinding. But this morning, when God came so near to us there in that sickroom, everything seemed to change within me, and what I had considered wrong and worthy of criticism appeared in a different light altogether. I hope you will give me the opportunity to join you in such missionary work at any time."

Wherever there is a disposition on the part of any in the church to criticize and to feel that everything is all wrong, enlist them in personal service

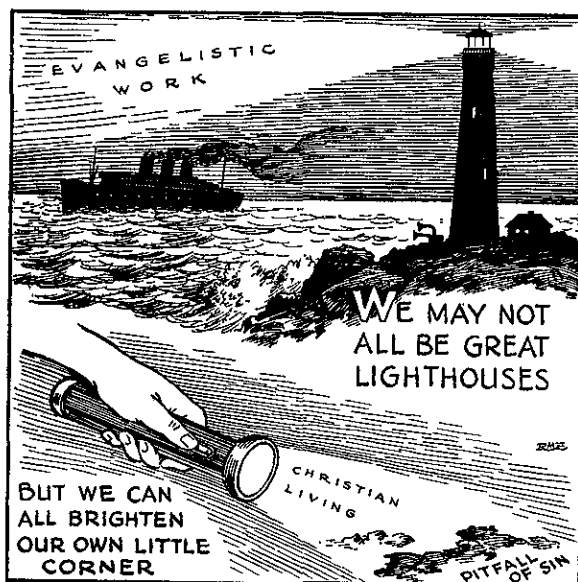
for souls, and the entire aspect will change. Visit the discouraged members, or the absent members. It is not possible for the pastor of a large church to visit everybody who does not come to church as often as might be needed, but the church members should be depended on to help in this kind of ministry. Visit the new church members and make them feel happy to belong to such a church. Watch out for these new members, and for strangers when they come to the church service, and be friendly. Make them feel that they are in the best place on this earth, and God will bless you in this simple but far-reaching ministry.

### Training Classes

Training classes for instruction in practical Christian help work, such as the health study circles to prepare the way for home-nursing classes, sanitation, hygiene, and first aid, should be set in operation in every church. There should also be cooking classes. Seventh-day Adventists ought to be the best cooks in the world. We claim to teach the world true health reform, and we ought to be able to teach it intelligently and efficiently.

### Literature Work

The distribution of literature is one of the greatest privileges afforded this denomination, and every member of the church should be fitted for this ministry. In one of our large city churches a literature band was organized, and their objective was the placing of *Present Truth* in every home



in territory assigned to the individual members of the band. One of the sisters in this band was very timid and lacked the courage to begin. She took her assignment of papers home, and resolved that she would distribute them among her neighbors the next week. But on Monday morning, when she had planned to begin, she found so many things at home that needed attention that she did not get started. The same thing occurred on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Each night she resolved to go out with the papers the next morning, but the end of the week came, and no attempt had been made. With deep regret and sorrow, she went to the band meeting on Sabbath afternoon, and there listened to the reports rendered by those who had been at work. Each report only made her more determined to do her part next week. But she was very timid, and it seemed that every time she planned to go, something occurred which caused her to change her plans. Another week passed by, and she attended another band meeting, which led her to the same resolution. Friday of the third week arrived, and still no beginning had been made. "How can I go to another band meeting and tell the leader that I have not done anything?" she said. "I really must do something today." So, with much fear and trembling, but with a prayerful determination, she took a bundle of *Present Truth* and started out.

The first house she came to was one of those awe-inspiring city homes, and as she stood before it there flashed through her mind the enemy's suggestion—"They won't read this little paper!" and she passed on, hoping that the next place would be more promising. But once she had yielded to the suggestion of doubt, the little imp of fear and discouragement kept close by her side, and during the entire afternoon she passed one house after another without making the approach. Darkness was drawing on, and it was time to return home. In desperation

she stepped over to the curb and placed a copy of *Present Truth* on the front seat of a parked car, and then hastened away with a sense of satisfaction that at least something had been done.

The owner of the car found the paper on the seat, slipped it into his pocket, and drove home. While waiting for his wife to call him to dinner, he took the paper from his pocket and began to read the publication which was headed the *Present Truth*. The man was a Roman Catholic, and it seemed that this particular issue of *Present Truth* dealt with that fundamental doctrine, "The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast." Naturally we would not choose such strong meat for the introduction of the third angel's message, but God's Spirit accompanies the printed page and often overrules what might be considered unfavorable circumstances. Being a man of keen mind, he quickly read the little paper, and the significance of its message gripped his heart. Calling out to his wife, he said, "Wife, do you know that we are wrong in our religion?" "You come on to dinner, and forget about religion," was the reply. But during the dinner hour he told her of the little paper and its message. They then read the paper together, and both were convinced that the seventh day is God's seal. They wanted to be true to God, and, even though they belonged to the Catholic Church, they decided that henceforth they would observe the true Sabbath.

Then he started out to find a church where worship was conducted on Saturday. He asked a policeman if he knew of any such church, and the policeman said, "Yes, you will find it in the middle of the next block." When he reached the spot, he found himself in a Jewish synagogue. But he knew that was not the place for him, and after many inquiries and much searching, he finally located the Seventh-day Adventist church, to which the timid sister belonged, and

finding the door open, even though it was Saturday afternoon, he entered. The literature band was holding its weekly meeting, and the stranger listened to the reports and the plans. It would have seemed very strange to him, except that they were talking about *Present Truth*, and about circulating the paper throughout the city, and he knew that in some such way the paper had come into his hands. When the missionary collection was taken up in the meeting, the stranger dropped in his check for forty dollars. Perhaps you can imagine the effect of such a donation from an unexpected source. The check bore the name and address of the giver, and the pastor of the church made connections which led to further literature and Bible studies, and soon the man and his wife united with the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Having been won to the truth through the literature ministry, performed by one of the weakest and most timid, and yet most sincere, "saints" in the church, this man and his wife desired to join the literature forces. He was a man of means, and conducted a large business. He ordered hundreds of copies of *Present Truth* and kept several stenographers busy addressing wrappers and mailing the papers, securing names and addresses from the city directory.

That is just one illustration of the effects of missionary endeavor with our publications. Whether or not that timid sister who placed the one paper in an automobile that Friday afternoon ever knew what it accomplished, we do not know. But God knew the struggle going on in her heart. He knew her longing desire to do her part, and He led her to place the paper where it would reach a soul waiting for the light, and from the passing out of that one paper, thousands of pages of literature have been scattered and are still being scattered. To every timid soul, we would say, Persevere in your resolve; make a be-

### A Sacred Charge to the Church

CHRIST has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 600.



ginning, if it is only one single paper given away after days and weeks of failure. God will give you the victory, and He will care for the harvest from the seed of truth scattered broadcast at the hand of His children.

### The Book That Preached

While I was conducting a series of meetings in the Middle West, a very interesting experience came to light. One of the sisters in the church invited a neighbor woman to attend the meetings, whose regular attendance and apparent interest were quite marked. One evening, at the close of the service, the woman said to me, "I have enjoyed your meetings very much, but I am sorry to say I cannot come any more." I asked if she expected to leave the city, to which she replied that she was not going away, but that her husband requested that she stay away from the meetings. She said, "My husband does not want me to come. He is a very fine man, but is not interested in religion; and he tells me that if I will not stay home with him he will join a club and spend his evenings there; so I feel that I have a duty at home." I assured her of my regret that she found it impossible to continue attending the services, and promised that we would pray for her husband as she had requested. It seemed there was nothing more to do for this present. However, to my surprise, the woman attended the service the next night, and the following night; and then later she came again. When I inquired how she had solved her problem, she told me the story as follows:

"When my husband requested me to stay home with him instead of going to the meeting, I promised I would do so, but said that I wanted to go just once more, as the subject to be presented that evening was of special interest. He readily consented. (I later learned that he was uneasy and lonely, and during the evening he went to the bookcase to find some book to read. His eye lighted on a volume entitled "Bible Readings," which had been in the library for years, but had never been read. On opening it he found a picture of the image of Daniel 2. I had tried to tell my husband about the image and the beasts of prophecy, which had been explained in the meetings, but I could not give a very clear descrip-

tion. But what I had told him caused him to decide to investigate. He became very much interested in reading the book, but he did not want me to know about it; so when he heard me opening the door he quickly replaced the book on the shelf and closed the bookcase.)

"The next night I was surprised to have my husband say, 'Are you going to church tonight?' I replied that I planned to stay with him, as I had promised. But he said, 'Oh, go if you like. I was only joking about your staying with me. What is the preacher going to say tonight?' I told him what had been announced, and he said, 'You mean those four beasts?' I replied that that was what I supposed would be explained, and then, to my dismay, he started in to tell me all about them. 'Where did you learn all that?' I asked, to which he replied, with a twinkle in his eye, 'O, I know more than most of those preachers!' I had no idea that my husband had ever been a Bible student, and I thought it was marvelous that he could talk so intelligently about the prophecy of Daniel.

"The following night my husband seemed anxious that I go to the meeting. He assured me that he did not mind at all if I went, as there was something he wanted to do that evening. I afterward learned that as soon as I was out of sight, he got out the book and began to read in real earnest. When I returned home, he took delight in telling me more about the subject than I had learned from the sermon."

So matters went on for a time, and the poor wife became more and more bewildered by her husband's wonderful knowledge of the Bible. One evening she came to me and said she wished I could meet her husband and talk with him, as it seemed that he knew all about the things I had been preaching. I went to visit the man, and I had not talked to him long before he gave me a real canvass for the book "Bible Readings for the Home Circle." He assured me that every preacher in the world ought to have that book, and said he would like to get three copies for his friends. I told him that I could get the books for him in about two hours, and would be very glad to do so. He looked at me in surprise, and said, "You don't mean to say that you rep-

resent the people who put out that book?" "Yes, that is a Seventh-day Adventist book," I replied. "And I can get as many copies as you want." He ordered three copies, and from that time on he never missed one of the meetings. Later it was my privilege to baptize this man and his wife. They had two little boys, and today one of those boys is an ordained minister in the cause of God, and the other is studying to be a doctor. The entire family are rejoicing in the truth today as the result of someone's having placed one of our subscription books in that home. Let us circulate our large books and small books, magazines, and missionary periodicals, and keep the reading racks well filled. Every church should have a well-stocked library of Seventh-day Adventist literature, so that all the church members can have access to it. In addition to this there should be the Free Circulating Library, which provides for systematic lending of the small books to the public, to be followed up in a few weeks' time by Bible studies and cottage meetings.

Space does not permit referring at length to the other phases of the missionary program of the ideal church, including the prayer bands, home-foreign bands, the great field of endeavor covered by the lay preachers and lay Bible workers, the responsibilities of the church to safeguard and educate the youth as Missionary Volunteers, to uphold the principles of Christian education in church school, academy, and college, and to make the Sabbath school, with its branch mission Sabbath and Sunday schools, the means of broad soul-winning endeavor. But we should keep God's program for the ideal church ever in view, and individually yield our lives for the work of "perfecting of the saints" to the doing of "all kinds of ministry."

~~~~~

"ALL heaven is looking with intense interest upon the church, to see what her individual members are doing to enlighten those who are in darkness."

"Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents—the members of the church—to cooperate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you."—"Christian Service," p. 89.



## Departmental Activities

### Two Hours a Week for Christ

BY D. E. REINER



HAVE you ever heard of "next-year Christians"? They have a vision of an on-coming pentecost, a wonderful revival, a period of great soul winning. To them this time is "just around the corner," but it never materializes in actual experience. They are interested in God's work, they talk of doing great things very soon; but the propitious moment for action never seems to come. Such persons are "next-year Christians." Unless they change their ways and begin to work right now, they will most certainly suffer great disappointment.

This class of members in the church has been clearly pointed out by the messenger of the Lord: "I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place,—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act; they must take hold of the work themselves, and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. I, p. 261.

If we are to be counted worthy of the "well done," something must be done, and a beginning must be made. We must learn to organize our time, systematize our work, and begin to do the things about which we have been dreaming and praying. As an aid to this end, the plan of dedicating two hours a week for prayer, Bible study, and soul-winning work has been found helpful. Many church members are settling down to carry out this plan conscientiously, determined not to allow anything or anybody to interfere. God is blessing in this transformation from "next-year Christians" to "everyday working Christians," and zeal and power in the individual life and in the church is apparent.

A few suggestions as to how these "two hours a week for Christ" may

be utilized to the greatest advantage, are presented for consideration, as follows:

1. *Meditation.* Ask yourself questions which stimulate clear thinking, such as, "If I keep on going the way I am now, and the way I have gone for the past year, past month, past week, and make no change in my life tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, will I ever hear the 'well done' spoken to me?" Or "If others had done no more for me than I am doing for others, would I ever have accepted Christ as my Saviour?" And "If Jesus had been as easily discouraged in working for me as I have been in working for others, would I ever be in heaven?" Seek an answer to such questions by earnest prayer and serious meditation. Then follow the way pointed out to you by the Spirit of the Lord, and *do it now.*

2. *Studying and Reading.* Study the Bible and other inspiring books on soul winning to catch a new vision, discover new methods of work, and find out what it meant to the great soul winners of other days to be engaged in such a grand work. In that way you will become acquainted with the problems involved, the sacrifices necessary, and the obstacles which are constantly thrown in the way of a soul winner. Pray about these, and then press on in your work.

3. *Visiting.* Call on some discouraged soul, an invalid or a sick person in the hospital or in the home; visit members of the church who do not come to the Sabbath school or church services, and let them know that you are interested in them and willing to help them. Study the Bible and pray with these.

4. *Letter Writing.* Write a letter to some discouraged believer or back-slidden Adventist, some near relative who is not saved, or someone else who is not in the faith, but who may be studying our literature and may be willing to accept more light. Fill these letters with a warm message which breathes light, life, and love for the lost soul. Assure the one addressed that his name is ever before you and that you are earnestly praying for him.

5. *Circulate Literature.* Spend part of this sacred time on the streets of the cities, or on the country roads. Circulate our tracts, our magazines, and our books. Select a block of territory and make yourself responsible for placing the printed page of truth in every home. Go over this district again and again. Get acquainted with the people and ask God to give you a burden for these souls who would be happy to learn of the truth which someone so willingly brought to you. If possible, sell some of our magazines and small books, or follow the Free Circulating Library plan. Use every means for getting our literature into the homes of the people.

6. *Conduct Cottage Meetings, or Branch Sabbath Schools.* Gather the neglected children and youth of the world into a home, or a suitable hall or building and conduct a branch Sabbath school or Sunday school. Gather names of interested people in your town or community who would be glad to attend cottage meetings, and, in a public way, bring to them this wonderful truth. Join some active church program and help in every way to build up the work of your church and encourage others who are interested in this soul-winning work.

Such a plan if adopted and earnestly followed by every Christian would mean a new day in their experience, and most surely would result in a rich harvest of souls everywhere. It has been gratifying to find a hearty response to this "two-hour-a-week" plan, as it has been presented at church institutes.

Oh, how much we need the old-time revival of prayer, study, and soul winning! How much we need to have restored in our hearts today that old-time spirit which possessed our pioneers. We are now many in number and are scattered over the face of the earth; we are in touch with millions who are in darkness and are wistfully looking toward heaven waiting for the light. Shall we not pray for such a revival, and pray for a willingness to enter into a plan which will make it possible for the Lord to give us this revival now? The results will be twofold—souls won for Christ, and a new depth of Christian experience.

"The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to

its possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and will become strong to work for God. They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady, growing faith, and an increased power in prayer. The Spirit

of God, moving upon their spirit, calls forth the sacred harmonies of the soul, in answer to the divine touch. Those who thus devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others, are most surely working out their own salvation."—*"Steps to Christ,"* pp. 84, 85.

can expect full cooperation from his church. If the missionary committee does not see light in some feature of his proposed plan, it is best that he study the plan carefully with them and go only so far as he can carry his committee with him.

After a good missionary program has been launched, the leader should see that it is carried through to success. This is where leadership and encouragement by the church elder are especially needed. He should plan to meet with the different bands occasionally, and if he discovers weak points anywhere along the missionary line, he should give careful study to that particular branch of the missionary program and suggest ways by which the work can be strengthened.

The primary qualification for a church elder is a thorough Christian experience and a deep interest in the salvation of souls. He should have good organizing ability and be able to adapt himself to the needs of the work. He should cultivate friendliness and avoid special favorites. As leader of the flock, he should take the lead in personal missionary work, and from personal experience be able to give counsel to any that may be discouraged. Especially is there need of encouragement in cases in which a member started out with great enthusiasm, but when he encountered obstacles became discouraged and inclined to give up and drop out of the ranks of missionary workers.

The importance of enlisting every member in some line of missionary service cannot be overemphasized. We read in the instruction which the Lord has given us, "All who are ordained unto the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. . . . Not all can fill the same place in the work, but there is a place and a work for all."—*"Christ's Object Lessons,"* p. 301.

A true leader will recognize every need in his church, and make provision to train his members to meet the needs. This may appear to be a heavy program, and such it is; but the elder may claim the promises of the Lord, for we are told, "God makes no requirement without making provision for its fulfillment. Through the grace of Christ we may accomplish everything that God requires."—*Ibid.*

J. J. REISWIG,

President, Montana Conference.

## Missionary Leadership

### Relationship of the Church Elder to the Missionary Program of the Church

THE success of the missionary work of the church to a large degree depends upon the leadership of the missionary officers. It rarely ever is the experience that the church membership will go beyond its leadership. And since the elder is directly or indirectly responsible for all the activities of the church, we can see at once that a great responsibility rests upon the one chosen to lead the church in its missionary work. In most of our churches the elder is also the missionary leader, and it is therefore important that the one chosen be a man of wide vision, with ability to organize and conduct the missionary program of the church.

Shortly after being elected to the position of church elder and missionary leader, he should call his missionary committee together to give study to the needs of the field; attention should also be given to the territory to be covered in the missionary program during the year, the interest already manifest, plans for increasing the missionary spirit, and how to secure a large harvest of souls. Too often our missionary activities consist only in creating interest, and give but little thought to the question of bringing people to a decision. This phase of the work should be very carefully studied at the beginning of the year. The elder should then organize his church so that every member will be assigned some part in the missionary activities. Bands should be formed, and every member should belong to some band. Even those who seem lukewarm and indifferent should not be passed by. They should be helped to gain a new experience, and be placed in some band for service.

At this first meeting of the elder with his missionary committee, definite plans, covering every phase of the missionary work during the year, should be considered.

It is very important that a balanced missionary program be undertaken. Some members should be trained in the art of giving Bible studies. They should be placed in a band with a leader who will work out minute details for every member of the band. Others may be placed in the literature band, and still others should be encouraged to join the Dorcas Society and give attention to welfare work in the church as well as in the community. The men should be organized into a Society of Missionary Men. If the church is small, it may be desirable for the elder himself to be the leader of the Society of Missionary Men. While he cannot be expected to carry the responsibility for all of these bands, yet he is responsible for the organization of all of them; and after they are organized he should keep in close touch with their work through meetings with the band leaders.

The church elder should meet his missionary committee at least once a month, and call on the leaders of the different groups to render a report of the work being done and also to present special needs and problems which require counsel. All plans for missionary work by the church should first be presented to the missionary committee for final study and action; then the general policy for missionary work should be presented to the church, and the members should be given an opportunity to ask questions. A clear explanation of the program should be made, so that every member may enter into the work intelligently. If this plan is followed, the leader

## An Inspiring Missionary Service

THE Ephesus church (colored) of Washington, D.C., is a very active missionary church. The monthly missionary service, held on the first Sabbath of the month, is made most interesting and inspiring, and the result is a deeply rooted missionary spirit in the church membership, and the winning of many souls to the truth.

The church missionary secretary, Jennette Anderson, furnishes a report of one of the first Sabbath missionary services, which indicates that the missionary program is well planned for and wisely includes a number of the church members. The report follows.

"The Ephesus church is endeavoring to win one hundred souls through layman's endeavor in giving one hundred Bible readings each week, and this was the theme of the monthly program which was presented the first Sabbath of the month. A number of illustrated talks were given. Mrs. Anita Simms used blackboard illustrations in connection with her talk on the subject of 'Win One.' This feature was followed by a presentation, 'The Watchman's Responsibility,' by a brother. As the pastor of the church sounded bugle calls, four young men responded by giving quotations from the Spirit of prophecy on the literature ministry. Dr. Eva B. Dykes used fitting illustrations for her stirring talk on 'Win Your Neighbor,' by presenting a church building from which rays of light extended into the darkened community, the darkness gradually diminishing through the systematic distribution of literature.

"A solo was rendered by the pastor, entitled, 'The Message Is Going,' and the junior jubilee band sang 'Scatter Pages of Truth.'

"The report of the missionary activities of the church for the month which was read, contained the following figures: 146 Bible readings given—an average of about five Bible readings each day of the month; 160 persons received needed help; \$80 spent in welfare work; 253 missionary visits reported; 148 articles of clothing distributed; 33 treatments given; 160 hours of Christian help work reported; 63 food baskets and bouquets distributed; 664 pieces of literature given away."

As a result of the Bible training classwork conducted in this church



When the Steering Wheel Is Out of Control, Disaster Follows

every week during the year, fifty of the church members are engaged in giving Bible studies in the homes of interested people, and eight souls have been won to the truth and have united with the church as the result of lay evangelism efforts.

Wherever the missionary meetings are given prayerful attention, and due effort is made to make them truly interesting and inspirational, the missionary service rendered by the church increases in volume and results. Heavy responsibility rests upon the missionary leader and secretary, in cooperation with the pastor, in making the first Sabbath missionary service and the weekly missionary service what they are designed to be—reminders of the privilege and the joy of being "workers together with God" for the salvation of souls, the channel for conveying encouraging reports of what is being done, and the bugle call to

rally to the support of current missionary endeavor.

~~~~~

## The Fifth Wheel

ELDER H. W. COTTRELL, a veteran leader in God's cause, compares the missionary meeting which comes between the Sabbath school and the church service, with the fifth wheel of a vehicle. For example, the fifth wheel of the automobile is the steering wheel—the guiding part of the car.

The weekly (fifteen-minute) missionary meeting is the steering wheel of church missionary activity. It is necessary in order to keep the good work moving along in the right direction. In a sense it is the spearhead of our missionary endeavor. When we get into an automobile we want a good driver at the wheel, one who has a clear vision of where he is going, and a steady hand. And he should be wide awake all the while and should understand the purpose of each part of the operating machinery. The same qualifications are needed for the church missionary leader in every church. Throughout the world field we find this kind of missionary leadership guiding in every phase of the work, and steady advancement is being made in the proclamation of truth.

W. A. BUTLER.

## News From Soul Winners

*The Urge to "Go and Teach."*—What can compare with the zeal of the new believer who hears this blessed truth for the first time and accepts it! Among those who attended a series of evangelistic meetings for the English-speaking population of Bangalore, India, was a woman hungering for truth. She accepted the third angel's message wholeheartedly and united with the church. Her heart was filled with a burning desire to tell others of her new-found faith, and she began with her nearest neighbors—a very influential family, consisting of father, mother, and four children. At first, the parents took no interest in the new religion, but their oldest son, being at home during vacation, listened eagerly, and began to attend the lectures by the evangelist. Within a few weeks' time, he requested baptism. Then he

decided to enter our missionary college. Still the parents paid no attention to the preaching of the message, but the decision of their son naturally caused them some concern. Finally the son persuaded his father to permit him to bring the evangelist to visit him. The request was granted, and friendship was established. Soon the parents were eagerly studying the Bible, and as a result they accepted every point of truth. They became earnest and loyal Seventh-day Adventists. Then the father could not rest until he visited his second son, who held a good position with the government, and explained to him the truth of God. At the father's earnest appeal, the son was led to accept the truth, and he resigned his position and entered our college to prepare for the Lord's work. The parents worked zealously

for the two younger children and placed them in our school. The entire family is now within the fold of Christ and is working day and night to bring others in. The father conducts Bible readings in homes, and every day he may be seen going from home to home distributing literature. This was all brought about through the efforts of one faithful sister, who felt the urge to go and teach.

Mrs. A. E. RAWSON.

Bangalore, India.

*The Spirit of God Impresses Hearts.*—Elder I. C. Pound, president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, refers to a remarkable experience in connection with a series of evangelistic meetings. We quote as follows: "The latter part of August (1939) we closed a very profitable effort which was held in the beautiful little park near the center of a small city in Arkansas. The Spirit of the Lord came especially near in our last meeting, and many hearts were touched. Quite early the following morning we went over to remove the piano, seats, etc. As I parked my car, a man came up to me, and this is what he said: 'Preacher, I gave my heart to God this morning as I was out in my pasture to drive up the cows. As plainly as though a voice spoke to me, I was bidden to go to you at once and was told that you would show me what I ought to do. I have hurried from my home, six miles away, to see you, for I was impressed that unless I came quickly you would be gone. I am sure God led me here. Now what shall I do?'"

"Except for a delay that had thrust itself upon me, I would have been gone by the time the man appeared. I was a bit wary at first, thinking that the man might be under some strange excitement. But after questioning him closely, I came to believe that his experience was genuine. He had attended the last half of my meetings, but I had not made his acquaintance. Upon later inquiry I found that the man and his family bear a good reputation.

"I told the man as best I could the things I felt he needed to do. Seeing he used tobacco, I suggested there were certain habits the Lord would have him put away. To this he replied, 'On my way down here this morning the Lord showed me that I

should stop using tobacco, so I am giving that up.' We arranged for this man to attend the Bible class which was to meet three times a week for some time to prepare new believers for baptism. I believe that this man and other members of his family will unite with the church in a short time. Never have I seen the power of God so manifest in connection with the preaching of the message as now. It gives us courage to press on to larger undertakings."

*A Nurse and the "Signs of the Times."*—A Seventh-day Adventist nurse, while on duty in a hospital, came in contact with a family who gave evidence of seeking for truth. Personal interviews and brief Bible studies were followed by a subscription to the *Signs*. Every issue of this wonderful paper was eagerly read by members of the family, and in a very short time they attended Sabbath school and church services and are now preparing for baptism.

*Cottage Meetings Produce a Harvest.*—A brother and his wife in one of the Colorado churches engaged in conducting cottage meetings and Bible readings each night of the week. After following this program for several months, ten persons were added to the church.

*Harvest Ingathering Singing Band Wins a Family.*—While singing the gospel songs on a city street, some band members were requested to visit a man's home. The request was complied with, and this led to an opening for Bible studies with a very fine fam-

ily. The studies were conducted for a number of weeks, and as a result, father, mother, daughter, and a niece began keeping the Sabbath and were later baptized.

*Literature Distribution Opens a Wide Field.*—A sister who is unable to make personal visits sends literature through the mail to hundreds of addresses. One day a representative from a boys' home knocked at her door and asked if she could supply Christian literature for ten of the boys. He returned with an armful of truth-filled literature. This sister sends papers, tracts, and books to shut-ins; hospitals, ministers of all denominations, captains of ships, etc. Hardly a day passes that does not bring requests for more reading matter. This sister is working in harmony with the instruction to "let the leaflets and tracts, the papers and books, go in every direction."—*Christian Service*, p. 151. "Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part."—*Id.*, p. 146.

✻ ✻

### Ted, the Indian Lad

In Western Peru, on the banks of the Perene River, there is a Seventh-day Adventist church composed of Indian believers, many of whom are ex-slaves. In former days, not far distant, slave dealers swept through the country in search of children and youth, whom they kidnaped and sold to owners of plantations, to be kept as slaves. Often the parents were killed by the invaders, in order to make it easier to carry away the children. Ted was one of these unfortunate children. He was a very small boy when the slave traders came to his village, and he does not remember his parents, or in what part of the jungle they were living when the terrible separation occurred. He worked hard on the plantation, and was faithful to his master, but there was a constant urge within him for better things, and he was always on the watch for an opportunity to escape. He knew nothing of Jesus, or the message of salvation, but our heavenly Father watched over him and chose him as one who could be trusted with the gospel and who



**INFLUENTIAL FAMILY IN INDIA**  
Won to the Truth Through the Efforts of a Zealous Lay Member. The "Lay Member" Is Designated by an X

would let the light shine among his own people.

One day Ted managed to get away from the plantation. He hid in the deep jungle, not knowing what was to become of him. But here he was discovered by an Indian passing along the trail, and this Indian was a Christian and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He befriended the lad, and took him to the mission station some distance away, assuring him that he would not be harmed, but would be protected if any attempt were made to carry him back into slavery. Today Ted is making wonderful progress in the mission school. He is a good worker, and a true Christian, doing all he can in his present surroundings to witness for Christ; and soon he will be prepared to leave the school and go as a missionary to the country from which he was so cruelly taken, to tell his people the glad news of the soon-coming Saviour.

\*\*\*

### A Lay Preacher in Mexico City

A LAY preacher who earns his livelihood as a traveling salesman for toilet articles visited a barbershop, where his attention was attracted to a Scripture motto hanging on the wall. Inasmuch as this was something very unusual in a country in which nearly everyone is Catholic, he asked the proprietor if he could read the Bible. The proprietor answered that he could, and said that for some time he and a number of his friends had been conducting religious meetings in the rear of his shop, and extended an invitation to the salesman to be present that night. Our brother gladly accepted the invitation and discovered that these meetings were being conducted by a man who represented himself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

At the close of the meeting, our brother very tactfully asked if he might be permitted to say a few words, inasmuch as he had information from the Bible which would add light to the study of the evening. He was readily granted this privilege, and he so ably handled the subject that he was asked to be present the next evening. It was not long until this young man had created such a deep interest in the truth among the people of that village that they insisted that he take charge of the meetings. He did so,

(Continued on page 14)

## Weekly Church Missionary Services

### January 6—The Urgency of God's Work

TEXT: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day." John 9:4.

These words express the urge, the compelling motive which dominated the Saviour's life on earth. The Father had committed to Him a work to be accomplished before the coming of the night, "when no man can work." When Jesus had "finished the work" which the Father gave Him to do, He committed the continuation of that work to His disciples. When He appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, He said, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." John 20:21. And the same urgency to complete our work before the night cometh should take possession of our lives.

To every man has been given a definite work. We have the example set before us in the Saviour's life. His strenuous days of labor were followed by entire nights spent in prayer. We have a great work to do, and the night of eternal doom is rapidly drawing on. We have not a moment to lose.

As we begin a new year of service, Christ, the untiring worker, invites us to enter into glorious partnership with Him. In distributing literature, in giving Bible studies, in visiting the sick and the needy, we have His promise that He will be with us in all our ways, through all our days, even unto the end of the world. Dare we refuse to accept such wonderful partnership? Let us covenant anew to work more diligently in the various channels of service which await our response and cooperation. Let every church member prayerfully say "I must work, and I will work as never before;" and indicate on the Covenant Card provided the types of work to which the Spirit of God is calling.

### January 13—Our Field and Our Vision

TEXT: "This is my reason for reminding you to stir into flame that gift of God, that has been yours since your ordination at my hands." 1 Tim. 1:6, Twentieth Century New Testament.

The apostle Paul urged Timothy to keep the fires of evangelism burning. This fire, he said, had been imparted to Timothy as a gift from God; but it must be stirred into flame by his own constant effort. This counsel is timely for all members of the church at this time. Very little can be accomplished during this new year by the church if the fires of evangelism are allowed to burn out. It is "the zeal of the Lord of hosts" that will bring this about, as stated in Isaiah 9:7. One definition of "zeal" is "love on fire." The fire of zeal burns in proportion to the work it has to do. Where there is little fuel, there is little fire. The challenge of a great task, the acceptance of every goal and duty assigned, the doing of the work we ought to do, kindles the fire and makes love blaze forth for the triumph of truth and righteousness. As the individual members of the church keep before them the true vision of their privileges and responsibilities as watchmen, set upon the walls of Zion to proclaim the warning message to every soul, and individually prove true to their trust, the fires of evangelism will be rekindled.

Now is the time to "look our work squarely in the face, and advance as rapidly as possible" in conquest for God's kingdom.

### January 20—Unused Power

TEXT: "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents." Matt. 25:28.

If you would behold a display of power, stand at the base of that great cataract known as Niagara Falls, and watch the mighty waters roaring over precipices and pounding with thundering force upon the rocks below. Perhaps you would exclaim, "What a tremendous amount of unused power!" Yet let it be remembered that the greatest unused power in the world today is not found in Niagara Falls, but in the church of the living God.

Our text refers to a man with only one talent. The mistake which this man made was that he did not attempt to use the talent he had. Possibly he concluded that the man with five talents could do the work better. Or,

possibly he spied the man with two talents, and thought he would be the one to do it. But he took pains to hide away the one talent which he possessed, so that when the master came he could return it to him, for surely that would be a worthy course to pursue. Perhaps he reasoned that if he held on to the talent and was faithful, this in itself would pass him on through the pearly gates when the master came to give rewards. But to his dismay he found that what he had so carefully guarded was taken from him, and he himself was cast out.

The parable of the talents is again the sad story of unused power. It is of the utmost importance that every talent be put to use. Even though our ability may seem very small, yet if used it will multiply, and if hidden away and unused, it will be taken away and eternal loss will result. Are we using our talents, or hiding them? (Here make another appeal to any who have not signed the covenant of service, to begin at once and enter the Master's vineyard in whichever corner the need is the greatest.)

#### January 27—The "Liberty" Magazine

THIS is Religious Liberty Day, and a special program has been prepared for the regular church service, dealing with the crisis which faces the world and the cause of liberty. Some of the dangerous bills now pending in Congress which threaten the overthrow of the American Bill of Human Rights are brought to attention, and reference is made to the progress which the Catholic Church is making in the state legislatures in securing financial support for their parochial schools.

The Religious Liberty Department deals with many stirring issues and happenings which show the fulfillment of latter-day prophecies. A person has to be doubly blind not to discern the rapidly fulfilling prophecies and realize that the end of all things is rapidly approaching. If ever there was a time in the history of the world when we as a people needed to enlighten the world in regard to the meaning of what is occurring and to defend the cause of human freedom, we need to do it now.

The *Liberty* magazine is a trumpet voice that is sounding throughout the world, warning the nations, the lawmakers, and all the people of what

is happening and of what we must do in order to safeguard our constitutional liberties if we would enjoy peace here on earth a little longer. Some of the ablest statesmen and some of the most prominent educators in this country are contributors to the *Liberty* magazine. All our members should become subscribers to the *Liberty* and then hand it to their neighbors after they have read it. Some excellent testimonials of appreciation of the magazine have been sent to the editors. Here is one from an attorney in Georgia:

"For some time I have been receiving your publication, *Liberty*, and after I have read my copy, I have been so impressed by it that I have given certain issues to ministers of the gospel, and to business and professional men. Since I have never subscribed to this magazine, and since someone is evidently paying for my subscription, I should like to know who has been so kind as to favor me thus. If you will give me this information, I would be glad to express my thanks personally. You might give me the rate charged for thirty-six subscriptions, sent to separate addresses. Should I be in financial position to do so, I would like to make a Christmas present of this type to a considerable number of my friends and associates."

A Baptist minister in Michigan writes: "I just wanted to write and congratulate you sincerely on the splendid articles in your magazine, *Liberty*, which has been coming to me for the last several months. There is an imperative need in our nation today for just such articles to offset the vicious inroads of communism, Modernism, and apostasy so apparent on every hand."

The following message comes from a member of the State legislature in Colorado: "A friend saw the *Liberty* magazine and is very much interested. Will you kindly send your publication for one year. In my own mind I have been battling over the very things your publication stands for. I congratulate you on your fearless attitude and the wonderful work you are doing. If the time comes when I am able, I shall stomp the country on many of the issues you are heralding so admirably."

The librarian of a large law library in Connecticut writes: "We would be pleased to receive the *Liberty* maga-

zine, the last two numbers of which we now have on file, and which we consider a very suitable addition to our collection of legal articles."

The following testimonial comes from a newspaper editor who is now a member of Congress: "For a long period of years I have received regular issues of the *Liberty* magazine. I have felt that it was the one paper in the United States which never wavered in its faith in the United States and in the Constitution. I should like to continue to receive it."

Is it not worth while to send the *Liberty* magazine to city libraries, law libraries, ministers, lawyers, judges, and editors—men who express such high regard for the magazine after they have had opportunity to read it? Every church should take a club of fifty to place in the hands of prominent people in the community. A subscription to *Liberty* should be provided for every person who gave five dollars or more in Harvest Ingathering. It will pave the way for a liberal offering this year. Many are doing this, and are getting wonderful results in gifts from businessmen.

C. S. LONGACRE,  
*Religious Liberty Association.*

#### A Lay Preacher in Mexico City

(Continued from page 13)

and soon such a great interest was aroused that a minister was called. Eighteen have been baptized in this town, and according to latest information some forty-eight others are now candidates for baptism.

Notwithstanding the deceptive sophistries which he had to meet, this young brother, under the blessing of God, was used to change an entire community and start a work that is continuing to exert an ever-enlarging influence. Two Sabbath schools have been raised up in surrounding villages through the labors of the brethren in this new church. Meanwhile the work is spreading to other centers, and no one knows what will be the ultimate result of the faithful testimony of this brother. On my recent visit in Mexico City it was my privilege to meet this brother. He is now a student in our Mexican academy, preparing himself for definite service in a larger way in the Master's vineyard.

W. H. BERGHERM.



# Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



January

## OFFICERS' NOTES

### Regarding the 1940 Programs

**T**HERE is an earnest desire on the part of the Young People's Department that the society meetings for Senior youth shall be as helpful as possible to all who face practical problems in Christian experience. The department, therefore, has provided this year a series of studies built around the problems of youth. It is intended that in order that thought may be stimulated and the studies made as practical as possible, there should be provision for free, sincere discussion. Specific problems with questions are presented for study and discussion.

The aim of the society executive committee should be to plan the discussions in such a way that, through the analysis of the problems, the definition of terms, and the discovery and discussion of fundamental principles, the members of the society will gain a fuller understanding of the facts and principles of Christian experience and be able to apply these principles to their own personal problems. It is suggested that in order that the discussion may be properly conducted, the society executive committee should give careful study to the material of each program long enough in advance of the presentation of the program to assign the various phases of the subject to one or more members of the society in ample time for careful preparation. The discovery and application of the principles which apply to problems in Christian living, should be the objective. It would be well for the society executive committee to arrange for the pastor or church elder or a Bible worker to be present to give help in the discussion, should the need arise.

In planning each of these discussion meetings, the committee should bear in mind the following:

1. Plan to engage as many members of the society as possible in the study and discussion of the various phases of the subject.

2. Assign each phase of the subject suggested in the outline, to two or more individuals for special study, so that they may be prepared to discuss the topics intelligently. Assignments should be made long enough in advance to allow ample time for preparation.



3. Plan to guide the discussion so that principles may be discovered which apply in the solution of the problem. Texts and passages from the Spirit of prophecy which show these principles and their application should always be used as the basis of discussion.

4. Arrange to have someone sum up in a clear, concise way, the principles which have been presented.

5. Be careful to guard against any one person's monopolizing the time of the discussion.

6. Encourage the members of the society who have special problems to talk them over with the pastor or church elder.

7. Avoid theoretical or abstract discussions, and endeavor always to lead the discussion toward the application of sound principles to practical problems of daily experience.

A. W. P.

### Bible Year and Morning Watch

THE New Year has come. At the close of the year in December, considerable stress was laid upon the Bible Year and the Morning Watch for 1940. You encouraged all young people to enroll in the Bible Year and the Morning Watch world-wide Missionary Volunteer Prayer Circle. Now how do things stand?

Don't you think at the very beginning of the year you should make a survey of all your young people in order to ascertain how many are observing the Bible Year and the Morning Watch, and how many are not? Of course, those who are not enrolled in this Bible Year and Morning Watch brigade are missing something.

The responsibility of the executive committee of the Missionary Volunteer Society is to put forth every effort to encourage these young people to take up these essential devotional features. Have you supplied the youth with a Morning Watch Calendar, which has a Bible Year check in the back? Have you sat down with them and showed them how to observe the

Morning Watch? What an opportunity for a personal contact with these young people! And when you once get them started in this essential habit, do not fail to encourage them throughout the year.

D. A. OCHS.

### Religious Liberty Day, January 27

WE hope that the executive committee of every Missionary Volunteer Society will plan carefully for the program on "Citizenship and My Religion," to be given January 27. We have come to a time when there are many false philosophies regarding the citizen's relation to civil government, and when Adventist youth must think clearly regarding their responsibility to God and to civil government. The good Christian will be a good citizen.

Not only is the Missionary Volunteer Society putting on a program on citizenship, but January 27 has been designated by the denomination as Religious Liberty Day. Let us make the Missionary Volunteer meeting upon this day educational and inspirational.

A. W. P.

### Our Youth in Time of War

THESE are days of preparation. With a world at war, Adventist youth must prepare themselves for the tests and duties before them. In preparation for the crises into which every Christian will soon be plunged, we would recommend the study of the following: M.V. Leaflet 30, "Our Youth in Time of War;" and "Seventh-day Adventists in Time of War," by Elder F. M. Wilcox.

The M.V. leaflet should be circulated widely. Every society should see that each member has a copy of his own to study, for its contents should be mastered as part of one's preparation. (Price, 3 cents each.)

Elder Wilcox's book is full of experiences of our youth in the last world war. It sets forth the historical position of Seventh-day Adventists as noncombatants.

Because these eventful days are also days of unusual opportunity for soul winning, we would recommend that the executive committee of each society organize a group or band for the study of the material provided in the Advanced Study and Service League Progressive Class work. The booklet, "Outline for the Advanced Study and Service League," outlining the plan and giving the contents of



the course, can be secured from the Book and Bible House for 15 cents.

This Advanced Study and Service League work will be an excellent preparation for the experiences confronting the youth of this denomination. Not only is there outlined a study in soul winning, but Unit III requires certification in Red Cross Standard First Aid, or St. John's Ambulance, or Health Preservation and Home Nursing.

These are days of preparation.  
LET US PREPARE. A. W. P.

### How to Make the Young People's Society a Success

WITH the coming of the new year, the Missionary Volunteer Society executive committee, headed by the leader of the society, will wish to lay plans for the successful operating of the society throughout the year. When we speak of success in connection with a Missionary Volunteer Society, just what do we mean? When may a society be considered successful? Is it measured by the interest shown in the regular Missionary Volunteer meeting? Is attendance an evidence of success? Is success to be measured by the work of the literature band or the gospel meeting band? Perhaps all of these have a bearing upon the answer, but that society is most successful which most nearly fulfills the purpose for which it was established.

The society executive committee, therefore, which honestly desires to operate a successful society would do well to review the different calls through the Spirit of prophecy to organize our young people into societies and bands in order to discover God's purpose as revealed in these calls. In "Testimonies to Ministers," page 32, we have the first call through the Spirit of prophecy under date of December 19, 1892: "We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor."

Mrs. E. G. White, on May 29, 1893, wrote: "Will the youth who really love Jesus organize themselves into companies in every church?"

Then, on October 2, 1893, came another call to form companies; and on August 9, 1894, there appeared an article from the pen of Mrs. White in the *Youth's Instructor* in which she said, "Let young men, and women, and children go to work in the name of Jesus. Let them unite together upon some plan and order of action. Cannot you form a band of workers, and have set times to pray together and ask the Lord to give you His grace, and put forth united action?"

In "Education," page 269, we find this statement: "There are many lines in which the youth may find opportunity for helpful effort. Let them organize into bands for Christian service."

The youth are to be organized into bands for Christian service. The young people of this church are to have set times for prayer, planning, and united action. The youth are to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. The youth are to receive that training which will enable them to rightly represent the truth—that is, witness before the world. In other words, the church was to organize the Missionary Volunteer Society as a department of the church through which it could work for and through her young people. And this fundamental purpose is revealed in the relation of the Missionary Volunteer Society executive committee to the church board, of which the leader of the Missionary Volunteer Society is a member. On the other hand, the church elder and the missionary leader of the church are members of the society executive committee.

As they look forward to the work of the new year, the officers of the Missionary Volunteer Society will wish to do the following things:

1. Make the Missionary Volunteer Society the recruiting and training ground of the young people, so that each member will, as far as possible, receive an experience in (a) planning, (b) organizing, (c) teamwork, (d) public address, (e) leadership.

2. Organize a strong prayer and personal workers' band.

3. Plan very definitely to enlist every Senior Missionary Volunteer in one of the following lines of work—

- a. Youth-for-youth, a preparation for which is the Master Comrade Progressive Class work.

- b. Aggressive gospel-meeting work, a preparation for which is the Advanced Study and Service League Progressive Class work.

4. Organize bands for Christian service, and plan definitely for their work.

5. Plan for and foster all these M.V. features and activities which will develop strong Christian ideals, attitudes, and purposes.

6. Make each Missionary Volunteer Society meeting a dynamic experience. The executive committee will remember always that the Missionary Volunteer Society is not a literary society, not a club, not an entertainment group, but an army of young people having but one purpose, "The advent message to all the world in this generation." Each society meeting should be planned and conducted in such a way as to prepare and inspire each member to fulfill better the Missionary Volunteer Pledge.

Let the M.V. Society executive committee check its plans frequently throughout this year with the purpose and aims of God in calling the society into being.

A. W. P.

### Tools for Society Officers

WE are sure you are eager to learn about your duties and opportunities in the M.V. work, and to have the tools and devices with which you can do the best work while you are an officer in the Missionary Volunteer Society this year; therefore, we are herewith listing briefly those articles of equipment which will be helpful to you during 1940:

1. CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE. (At least two copies, and more if necessary. Contains society program outlines prepared in cycle, and suggestions to officers.)

2. M.V. Leaflets. (One complete set for use as samples from which to order. Sufficient number on organization and work to supply officers. Quantities of special numbers for the members; e.g., M.V. Leaflet 19, "Morning Watch," and 18, "Bible Year.")

3. M.V. Record Blanks and Pledges. (For society and personal use. Some conferences have a year's supply of record blanks bound together for sale to each society.)

4. Morning Watch Calendars. (One for each member. Quantities sufficient to supply projects determined upon.)

5. Bible Year Chart.

6. Set of M.V. Banners or Charts.

7. The *Youth's Instructor*. (Club for society, or single subscriptions to each home.)

8. Study and Service League material. ("The Great Advent Movement," by Emma E. Howell; "Senior M.V. Studies in Bible Doctrines;" "Fishers of Men.")

9. Advanced Study and Service League material. ("Outline for the Advanced Study and Service League;" textbooks for classes organized, class and individual record cards.)

10. Junior Progressive Class material. ("Junior Handbook;" Friend, Companion, Comrade charts, and individual record cards.)

11. Master Comrade material. ("Master Comrade Manual;" chart, and individual record cards.)

12. M.V. Reading Course books.

13. Notebook. (For recording names and addresses of society members, pages for ideas and plans, for dates of coming events, for book lists, and, in short, anything of interest to the society which would be lost but for the notebook.)

14. File of past years' GAZETTES, *Youth's Instructors*, and *Review and Herald*s. (Drawing upon articles for extra program material.) Or,

15. Clipping File. (Articles from our various publications and others filed topically, which may be used as extra material in arranging programs.) Or,

16. Scrapbook. (Which may be arranged and used as above.)

17. Constant contact by letter and by person with the conference M.V. secretary.

M. W. M.

(Officers' Notes are continued on page 24)



## Senior Meetings

### Making the Devotional Life More Effective

(Program for January 6)

BY E. W. DUNBAR

#### SONG SERVICE.

MUSICAL PRELUDE: "I Would Be True."

OPENING HYMN: "Take Time to Be Holy."

PRAYER. (For strength to keep resolutions.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

GATHERING OF MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION: "First Things First."

POEM: "It Means So Much to Me."

TALK: "Take Time to Be Holy."

TALK: "The Best Hour."

POEM: "Have You and I?"

TALK: "The Tree of Life."

ENROLLMENT. (See Notes to Leaders.)

CLOSING HYMN: "Light Divine."

BENEDICTION.

#### Notes to Leaders

**Enrollment.**—At this time take up pledges of Bible Year and Morning Watch participation on M.V. Record Blank 12. This blank has space for enrollment in both these features.

There is no greater test of your ability as a leader for youth than that offered in the challenge to make the Bible Year and the Morning Watch effective in the lives of your young people. One of the greatest needs of our young people, if they would maintain their faith in God and His message, is prayer and the study of God's word; therefore, we must enroll them in a systematic devotional program.

How are we to place these objectives before our young people?

1. See to it that every member has a Morning Watch Calendar and an M.V. Leaflet 19, "The Morning Watch."

2. See that every member has M.V. Leaflets 16, 17, and 18—the Senior and Junior Bible Year leaflets, and "Bible Study." The Morning Watch Calendar contains Senior and Junior Bibles Year check pages.

3. Make a close survey of all young people at the close of the year, and enlist everyone to observe these devotional features at the beginning of the year.

4. Keep a systematic record of the progress made by each person reading the Bible. For this purpose obtain M.V. Chart 4.

5. Observe the Morning Watch and Bible Year yourself. Be an example worthy of emulation.

6. Be ever ready to encourage those who may become negligent in their devotional life—talk with them, pray with them.

7. Enlist your young people to:

a. Give the Bible Year leaflets and Morning Watch Calendar to their friends and neighbors, and send them as Christmas and New Year gifts.

b. Distribute them in hospitals, sanitariums, hotels, Y.M.C.A.'s, and Y.W.C.A.'s.

c. Give them to Sabbath school class members; encourage Sunday school superintendents to supply them to class members.

d. Encourage youths' organizations of other denominations to use them.

#### First Things First

As your leader, I am anxious that we begin this momentous year aright. Of course, we are interested in many things: a large attendance; good, liberal offerings; strong missionary-band organizations; faithful reporting; a well-balanced social program; and an enthusiastic interest in the Reading Courses. But all these will mean absolutely nothing unless we have society members who are strengthened internally by daily contact with heaven. I do not believe in the Morning Watch and the Bible Year plans simply because they are Missionary Volunteer features, but I believe in them because they are basic and fundamental in meeting the needs of Christian young people.

To assist you in being faithful in these features we have appointed a devotional secretary to foster this important work. Our goal is easy to remember. It is simply 100 per cent of our membership—no more and no less.

If we would keep in touch with the Source of power, let us resolve today to be earnest and businesslike in our personal devotions.

"O Thou, by whom we come to God,  
The life, the truth, the way;  
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod—  
Lord, teach us how to pray!"



#### Take Time to Be Holy

TEXT: Prov. 8:17. "I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me."

The days of youth constitute the habit-forming period of life. How necessary it is, then, during these days, that we have pressed home the value of the all-important devotional habits.

We are living in an age of speed. Surely, if Christ were here at our meeting He would say to us, "Take time to be holy." I read some time ago of an early American settler by the name of Ezra Meeker, in whose lifetime was demonstrated the great advance in speed and in the development of transportation. In covered-wagon days Ezra Meeker rode across a large portion of the United States behind an ox team. He went across later in a high-speed transcontinental train. He also lived to fly across in a few hours in one of the modern air transports.

In these days of speed, we need a very certain connection with God for our own protection. We are plunged into conditions daily which tend to crush spirituality. We must, therefore, test our connections with heaven every morning. Dare we face the day without first facing God? We should not look into the face of others until we have looked into His face.

There is a strange conception held by a few young people that it is childish to pray. Certainly nothing was ever more false than this viewpoint. I have noticed that even the most powerful streamlined locomotives have to stop at intervals for refueling.

We are told that the Morning Watch and personal devotions of the young people are the thermometer of the society. Let us raise the temperature in our society by keeping our own appointments with God regularly and faithfully day by day.

In conclusion, I want you to notice this very piercing statement from "Messages to Young People," page 90:

"When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness, and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in

danger of unconsciously doing wrong, and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.

"If you feel in no danger, and if you offer no prayer for help and strength to resist temptations, you will be sure to go astray; your neglect of duty will be marked in the book of God in heaven, and you will be found wanting in the trying day."

### The Best Hour

THE Bible has much to say about the importance of praying to God in the early hours of the day. The morning hour is the sweetest, the quietest, the most economical hour for prayer. During this time the mind is fresh, active, alert. The impressions made in the early morning are those which are most often carried through the day. No one can afford to face the day's duties and problems without facing God in secret prayer. "At the day's beginning is the time to fix the level of the day's living."

The first act of the soul in early morning should be a draft at the heavenly fountain. It will sweeten the rest of the day. A few moments with God at that calm and tranquil season are of more value than fine gold, and if you tarry long, you will come out of the closet as the high priest of Israel came from the mystery of the altar of incense—suffused all over with the heavenly fragrance of that communion.

Luther once remarked, "It is the business of the Christian to pray, just as it is the business of the cobbler to mend shoes and of a tailor to cut cloth for a coat." At one time, when his work had increased to such an extent that he could not find time and strength enough to do it, he said to a friend that now since his work had increased so greatly, he must double the period of his daily devotions. Luther did not say that since his work had increased beyond his ability he must curtail his devotional hours, but rather that he must give more attention to prayer. Should not every Christian feel the same?

The morning hour was Jesus' choice for prayer. (See Mark 1:35.) It was David's best time. (See Ps. 5:3.) Isaiah had this for his program. (See

Isa. 50:4.) It was the practice of Jesus to turn "aside from the scene of His labor, to go into the fields, to meditate in the green valleys, to hold communion with God on the mountainside or amid the trees of the forest."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 90. (See also Mark 1:35; Matt. 6:6; and "Steps to Christ," p. 99, pocket ed.)

### Have You and I?

HAVE you and I today  
Stood silent with Christ, apart from  
joy or fray  
Of life, to see by faith His face;  
To look, if but a moment, at its grace,  
And grow, by such companionship, more  
true,  
More nerved to lead, to dare, to do  
For Him at any cost? Have we today  
Found time, in thought, our hand to lay  
In His, and thus compare  
His will with ours, and wear  
The impress of His wish? Be sure  
Such contact will endure  
Throughout the day; will help us walk  
erect  
Through storm and flood; detect  
Within the hidden life sin's dross and  
stain;  
Revive a thought of love for Him again;  
Steady the steps which waver; help us  
see  
The footpath meant for you and me.  
—George Klinge.

### It Means So Much to Me

IT means so much to me that, when He  
came,  
They called Him "Jesus"! 'Tis a grip-  
ping name  
That takes a saying hold on one like me,  
Who lifts new-visioned eyes that now  
would see  
All false lights fade in presence of the  
true.  
What does it mean to you?  
It means so much to me, in crisis hours  
When right seems baffled by opposing  
powers,  
To hear His strong voice call, "Be of  
good cheer,  
For I have overcome the world of fear.  
Here's refuge in My word—My word is  
true!"  
What does it mean to you?

—William Norris Burr.

### The Tree of Life

THE tree of life is mentioned very seldom in the Scriptures. We read of it just a few times in the first few chapters of Genesis, and then again brief reference is made to it in the last few chapters of Revelation. The whole Book between is silent regarding this very remarkable subject. It seems that there is a cycle of six thousand years from the first appearing of the tree of life back to it again.

"The fruit of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden possessed supernatural virtue. To eat of it was to live forever."—"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 288. The fruit was the antidote of death, and the leaves were for the healing of the nations. I suppose

Adam and Eve, with their descendants, made many trips to the gates of the Garden of Eden during their long lives, to look in and explain its marvels.

The tree of life lived and grew upon this earth until sometime before the flood. I wonder how many of you know where the tree of life is to be found today. Is it still in existence? Yes, we read that it was transplanted by heavenly husbandmen, and the word of God definitely tells us that today it is in existence in Paradise, where God is. God, in His great love, has not entirely removed the blessings of the tree of life from us. He has seen fit to arrange a substitute, which is available to those who love Him.

"The Lord's care is over all His creatures. . . . He who has given us His word—the leaves of the tree of life—will not withhold from us a knowledge of how to provide food for His needy children."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 199. How marvelous it is to know that we have in our very hands today a leaf from the tree of life. The word of God is really supernatural. When Christ was upon the earth, His breath vocalized into words meant life and healing to men and women everywhere. He says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The Bible is a great blessing and has in it the guaranty of immortality and eternal life.

May the Lord give us the determination to feed more regularly upon this wonderful food from heaven.

❖ ❖

"TODAY'S temptation, if yielded to, will become yesterday's sin, never to be recalled or changed."

❖ ❖

THERE are enjoyments which have in themselves no necessary moral quality, but are wastes that occupy time and absorb energy that ought to be absorbed in other channels.—A. T. Pierson.

❖ ❖

CORRECTION.—Attention is called to a statement in the GAZETTE of April, 1939, on page 29, in the article, "The Pioneer Preacher of the West," which gives the date of Elder J. N. Loughborough's birth as June 26, 1832. It should have read, January 26, 1832.—EDITOR.

## The Call to Service

(Program for January 13)

BY ANDREW C. FEARING

OPENING SONG: "Missionary Volunteers." (Songs today are listed in "Missionary Volunteer Songs.")

PRAYER.

REPORTS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE. (See Notes to Leaders.)

SONG: "Just Where I Am."

TALK: "Fishing."

SYMPOSIUM: "In His Service."

1. "Silent Witnessing."

2. "Happy in Sacrifice."

3. "The Power of Influence."

4. "An Unusual Life."

TALK: "Loyalty to the Flag of the Message." (See Notes to Leaders.)

TALK: "Upholding Their Hands."

SONG: "In the Service of the King."

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders

*Scripture.*—Instead of the usual Scripture reading, have members of your society tell very briefly of the call and acceptance for service of the following characters: Noah, Abraham, Daniel and his three companions, Esther, Moses, Gideon, Paul, Jonah, John the Baptist, and others.

*Talk: "Loyalty to the Flag of the Message."*—See pages 201-262 of the book, "Ablaze for God," by J. W. Mace. This chapter is replete with illustrations of men and women of Bible days and contemporary times who have laid their all upon the altar of sacrifice in accepting God's call for service. Choose what portions of this chapter you may desire; then encourage your youth to read the entire book.

### Fishing

(Outline)

TELL the story found in Luke 5:1-11. Illustrate how God has called His friends to become fishers of men. Show how fishing all night by oneself is valueless, but in contact with Jesus it brings abundant results. Stress the point that we are to "launch out into the deep." That is, we must make the attempt in faith because Jesus promises results through His power.

What are some of the "deeps" of service that we as youth have not touched? (At this point have someone prepared to discuss briefly the various fields of missionary endeavor as outlined in the M.V. Leaflets 7, 9, and 20; also Home Missionary Leaflets Nos. 11 and 12. These leaflets may be obtained from your conference Missionary Volunteer or home missionary secretary.)

Mention the Truth for Youth series of leaflets and the circulating library of World Crisis books. The sunshine band is a very fruitful agency for youth service. Many of our Seniors, as well as Juniors, give portions of their young people's programs in hospitals and orphanages, and in homes

for the incurable, aged, blind, and poor.

Bring out the thought in verse 4, "Let down your nets," as meaning to use the ability, talents, and opportunities that are granted to you. Doing the best you can with what you have, coupled with God's power, will always bring a harvest.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

*David.* He had only a leather sling and a few smooth stones, plus a simple trust in God. He combined all he had, and God wrought the victory.

*Shammah.* 2 Sam. 23:8-12. The Philistines were taking away the land which God had given to Israel. Shammah did not believe that God wanted it that way; so he stood to defend his field of lentils. He used what he had—perhaps just a stick—combined with God's power, and the Bible says, "The Lord wrought a great victory" for him.

*Shamgar.* Judges 3:31. This Hebrew farmer stood alone with his God against the enemy of God's people, using all he had at his command—an oxgoad—and God gave him victory.

*Doreas.* She did not have the ability to preach, nor perhaps was she possessed with the powers of leadership, but she did have a needle, and she could sew. She sewed her love for Jesus into every stitch she made for the poor and needy. Some young people seem to think that the Doreas Society of the church is just for the older ones. In one church recently some Missionary Volunteers joined the Doreas Society. Because of their presence and service they brought new life and added zealous activity. God needs youth in the Doreas Society.

### QUOTATIONS

Close this talk by giving the powerful quotations from the Spirit of prophecy as found on pages 15 and 16 of the M.V. Leaflet 37, "How Shall I Choose My Calling?"

### In His Service

#### 1. Silent Witnessing

ONE day Jack, a boy about sixteen years of age, went to work on the farm of a young Seventh-day Adventist couple. Every morning the young man, his wife, and their two children had their family worship. In the course of time, this lad was invited to remain with the family while their morning devotion was held. Up until this time Jack had never thought much about religion, for as far as he could see, religionists were not different from the rest of the world. However, he could not help noticing the sterling and consistent characters of that good farmer and his family. He noticed how honest and square the man was in disposing of his produce. Then, too, there was something peculiar about these people—they never worked on Saturday. He thought they must be a little fanatical; yet their life was so sweet and wholesome that he could not help admiring them.

After a short time Jack left for a position in the city, but the influence of that family remained with him for years. One day he was invited to a tent meeting, and as soon as he found that the people were Seventh-day Adventists, he became interested. He explained to the friends with whom he had come that he had once known some Seventh-day Adventists, and that they were the finest people he had ever met. He joined the church in that city, and at the present time he is a minister in the Lord's vineyard.

That is the way with all good examples—they walk in their sleep and go farther than they know. Little did that farmer and his Christian family realize that by their simple Christian living they were to influence directly and powerfully the fortunes of a great soul winner for the cause of God. But such was the result of their regular devotions, backed up by sincere living. God never allows a good example to be lost. He calls us each to this type of service—witnessing.

#### 2. Happy in Sacrifice

A number of years ago a nurse in a certain hospital left her position to become a nurse in a leper colony. She was a beautiful girl; she had been graduated with highest honors at school, and had been for some time the head nurse in this hospital. But her heart yearned to help the poor lepers, and she determined that she would offer herself in service for them.

On the day that she sailed, the friends who gathered around her to say good-by could scarcely see her for their tears; but she smiled at them, and waved her hand as she stood on deck, seemingly quite happy with the choice she had made. She thrilled with her acceptance of the call to service.

If you could see her now you would find her helping the helpless, holding in her arms poor little children, stooping down to put her hand on the head of a disconsolate woman, bending over to whisper a verse of Scripture in the ears of a brokenhearted man.

Possibly you cannot go to a leper colony, and perhaps God never meant that you should. But there is some person near you whose heart is breaking. You should answer God's call to speak to that one.

A true Missionary Volunteer is one who carries the sunlight of heaven in the face and in the spirit—whose influence is like that of Jesus.

#### 3. The Power of Influence

ONE day a man went into the slums of New York just to see what was going on. Children were playing and yelling, men were quarreling and cursing. There was jangling, confusion, noise. Suddenly about three blocks away he heard the Salvation Army band playing, and he stopped to listen. The band was slowly coming down the street. As it drew near, every child stopped its playing, every man stopped his wrangling, and in a few moments

the air was cleared by the melodies—all was quiet under their influence.

Should a truly converted youth, who has accepted the call to witness for Christ, be any less influential in his sphere of activity? No. If he is truly a Christian, when he enters a home, that home ought to be better for his coming. Every time a person talks with him, should he not be able to say, "It's so helpful to meet him. The very look in his eye makes me better. The very sound of his voice helps me to understand what I ought to be. He is a true Christian. It is so good to have him as a friend?"

Such a servant of God and a friend to man has truly accepted God's call to witness for Him.

#### 4. An Unusual Life

Occasionally there is a Senior Missionary Volunteer who feels that he has grown too old to start a course of training which would enable him to answer the call to service. Too many wasted years have slipped by and opportunities have gone!

It is evident that some people are more fortunate in life than others. One person has greater opportunities and better chances to attain preparation for service than another; yet to a large degree a man can make of his life just what he wishes, no matter what adverse circumstances or discouragements face him. What if a man is hindered for several years in developing his career? Is that any reason why he should be one of the "Oh, what's the use?" kind, and give up? No! Sometimes we are too blind to appreciate the disappointments and delays which are permitted by an all-wise Father to develop that within us which only He can see.

An unusual life, and one worthy of careful study, is that of Dr. Charles S. Rockhill, of Cincinnati, Ohio. From his boyhood his great ambition was to be a physician. Gratification of that ambition was long delayed, but the delay only served to strengthen his ambition and his determination to bring that fond dream to a reality.

In early boyhood he had to assume the responsibility of the head of the family—the one to whom others looked for support and care. He met that unusual and heavy obligation with a fine spirit, and bore the burden uncomplainingly until it had been discharged. He thought of others first. He sacrificed his dream and ambition by putting forth every effort, until he was forty-two years of age, to do the work that would have fallen to his parents had their lives been spared. For years he had a fine record as a railway engineer, but at last, after his burdens were disposed of, he turned from his engine cab to realize the dream that had been inspiring his heart through the years. He entered a medical college and began a four-year course of study.

He was forty-six when he was graduated, an age at which most physi-

cians have earned a place in their profession, but that fact merely served to challenge his stout heart. He began his practice in Cincinnati, and specialized in tubercular ailments. In his years of study he had put the powers of a mature mind and an enthusiastic heart into his work, and had an understanding of medical science that was unusual. This fact was quickly evident, and with only a few years of practice, he gained for himself a very high standing. He was only sixty-two when he died, but for more than a decade his name had been high on the list of those tubercular experts in the nation who have blazed the way to larger accomplishments. From the sanatorium that bears his name, many men and women have gone back into active life, their ailment under control, their lives reorganized, able truly to live.

No one knows what might have been his record and his accomplishments had he been able, in early manhood, to take up the studies that would prepare him for the profession of his choice. His life might have been longer, as years are counted, but could it have shown more inspiring results? Only a stout heart and a great inspiration could have kept alive and strong the dream of a life through the years of arduous toil—toil for others, the cheerful discharge of an inherited obligation. The experiences of those years made him stronger; the loyal service for others could have only a refining influence, making him wiser for the task that was his when the dream of his life was realized.

Some men say that they have no chance; some give way if they get one bump or if their plan of life meets interference. Here was a man who met the battle which the day brought, and fought it through to victory. Such a spirit and such preparation ensured an unusual career. There was the heart of a crusader in his task; there was the will to win, to do, to achieve. It was a great life to live. And "he being dead yet speaketh," for his influence will inspire others to dare and do the seemingly impossible.

#### Upholding Their Hands

SOME years ago there was in a certain church a modest school teacher, a most devout young woman. During a church service one morning the pastor was pointing out the great truth that we belong to God, that we are not our own; He purchased us with a most precious price, the blood of His dear Son. God's Spirit accompanied this message into the heart of this young woman. At the close of the sermon she slowly walked to the pastor's study, knocked, and gained admittance. The minister could not help noticing that she was manifestly in much distress.

"What is the burden of your heart? What is troubling you?" he asked. "Oh," she replied, "it was your sermon this morning. You preached that it is the duty of God's people to lay their all upon the altar of sacrifice, with their money, their lives, or both, to witness for Christ even to the ends of the earth." "Yes," he said, "that is right, and it is true." "Well, I've made a decision this morning, pastor. I've decided to accept that call to become a missionary, a teacher, in China. I did not feel that I wanted to make the sacrifice a few months ago, but now—oh, please pray for me!" And right then a dedicatory prayer ascended to heaven for the young teacher who had just accepted the call of God for service.

The doctors, after a careful examination, found that she had tubercular germs in her body and recommended that she should not be sent to China. With a heavy heart she returned to her home church. The disappointment seemed almost more than she could bear. A month passed, and the pastor again gave a similar sermon. With radiant face she rushed forward to greet him. "I'm going to China! I'm going to China!" she exclaimed. "Oh, not the way you think, but look—" and out of her Bible she drew a sheet of paper upon which she had been figuring. "I'm going to support a missionary who will go to China in my place." And she pointed to the figures, including a small sum that came to her as an income from a farm left her by her parents. She also had listed what extras she could save by living more economically. "Can't you see?" she said. "This is the way I shall go to China."

For years she has sacrificed the equivalent of a missionary's salary. Because she was faithful in accepting God's call for service, she was able to hold up the hands of one valiantly fighting for the cause of Christ on the battlefield of heathenism.

God has directly called His friends and children to serve Him even to the ends of the earth, as well as to personally witness at home. How are boys and girls, Senior youth, fathers and mothers, going to accept this call for service in the foreign fields? Why, for one thing, you can uphold the missionaries' hands, as literally as the hands of Moses were upheld by Aaron and Hur. The Scriptures remind us

that just as long as Aaron and Hur upheld his hands, Israel was victorious, and when they did not uphold his hands, Israel was defeated in the battle. We are in the same responsible position today in reference to God's chosen people. God has ordained that His friends should steadily hold up this great cause by prayer and practical cooperation. The battle could not be won without your help. Let us unreservedly recommit ourselves today to be faithful to Jesus and to His cause in this earth, and personally accept His call for service in upholding the hands of those who are championing the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth.

❖ ❖

## Being Sensible About Our Friendships

(Program for January 20)

BY GRACE KELSEY-KEITH

OPENING SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," No. 643 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE READING: Prov. 18:24; James 4:4; 2:23; Prov. 27:6, 9, 10; Job 6:14 (first part).

PRAYER.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION: "Being Sensible About Our Friendships."

TALK: "The Perfect Friend."

TALK or SYMPOSIUM: "Counsel From the Spirit of Prophecy."

SONG: "The Best Friend Is Jesus," No. 50. (May be sung as a solo or duet for special music.)

POEM: "A Friend's Greeting."

READING: "An Earthly Immortalization of Friendship."

STORY: "The Colonel's Word Shall Stand," p. 28.

CLOSING SONG: "I've Found a Friend," No. 332.

BENEDICTION.

## Being Sensible About Our Friendships

WHEN we speak of being sensible about our friendships, that necessarily must apply in two ways. First of all, we like our friends. We choose them according to our liking. If one is wise, he chooses friends who are not only congenial, but whose association is helpful and uplifting.

But we must not be selfish in our friendship, for there are those who may not have had the advantages, the education, and the experience that we have had; whose opportunities for a wide acquaintance have been limited; who would appreciate our friendship and be helped by it. The sharing of our association and kindly friendship may be just the means in God's hands of leading such a person, not only to a

greater love of Jesus, but also to a broadening and developing of his own usefulness in God's service.

This is what I would call being sensible about our friendships. It bars being selfish. If we expect to share a friendship with those who may be our ideals, we must be willing to give of our friendship to help others.

## The Perfect Friend

JESUS is the perfect friend. He not only loved His friends, but He loved His enemies and was willing to make the supreme sacrifice in order that they might be saved. Few examples does history relate of such friendship.

Our first concern should be to accept of the friendship which He so freely offers us. He should be our closest friend, the One in whom we can confide our inmost thoughts, our greatest and smallest problems, our joys, our sorrows. He is concerned about it all. We can talk and plan with Him at any time and receive comfort and help. Though father and mother forsake us, Jesus is true to the end. When earthly friends prove traitor, He is just the same as always. How important, then, that our closest and most special friend be Jesus.

What a wonderful privilege was bestowed upon Abraham to be called a "friend of God." He walked with God and talked with God. What an encouragement to us! Ours is the same privilege.

## A Friend's Greeting

I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me;  
I'd like to be the help that you've been always glad to be;  
I'd like to mean as much to you each minute of the day  
As you have meant, old friend of mine, to me along the way.

I'd like to do the big things and the splendid things for you,  
To brush the gray from out your skies and leave them only blue;  
I'd like to say the kindly things that I so oft have heard,  
And feel that I could rouse your soul the way that mine you've stirred.

I'd like to give you back the joy that you have given me,  
Yet that were wishing you a need I hope will never be;  
I'd like to make you feel as rich as I, who travel on  
Undaunted in the darkest hours with you to lean upon.

So I'm wishing you today that I could half repay  
A portion of the gladness that you've strewn along my way;  
And could I have one wish this day, this only would it be:  
I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me.

—Edgar A. Guest, with apologies for rearranging the last stanza.

## Counsel From the Spirit of Prophecy

THERE should be great care exercised in the choosing of our friends: "The true followers of Christ will not choose intimate friendship with those whose characters have serious defects, and whose example as a whole it would not be safe to follow, while it is their privilege to associate with persons who observe a conscientious regard for duty in business and in religion. Those who lack principle and devotion generally exert a more positive influence to mold the minds of their intimate friends than is exerted by those who seem well balanced and able to control and influence the defective in character, those lacking spirituality and devotion."—"Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 24.

"Let all who would form a right character choose associates who are of a serious, thoughtful turn of mind, and who are religiously inclined. . . . A good name is more precious than gold. There is an inclination with the youth to associate with those who are inferior in mind and morals. What real happiness can a young person expect from a voluntary connection with persons who have a low standard of thoughts, feelings, and deportment? Some are debased in taste and depraved in habits, and all who choose such companions will follow their example. We are living in times of peril that should cause the hearts of all to fear. We see the minds of many wandering through the mazes of skepticism. The causes of this are ignorance, pride, and a defective character. Humility is a hard lesson for fallen man to learn."—*Id.*, Vol. IV, p. 588.

"The link [of friendship] is a mysterious one which binds human hearts together, so that the feelings, tastes, and principles of two individuals are closely blended. One catches the spirit, and copies the ways and acts, of the other. . . . The influence may be unconscious, yet it is no less powerful.

"If the youth could be persuaded to associate with the pure, the thoughtful, and the amiable, the effect would be most salutary. If choice is made of companions who fear the Lord, the influence will lead to truth, to duty, and to holiness. A truly Christian life is a power for good. But, on the other hand, those who associate with men and women of questionable morals [and this refers to children and youth as well], of bad principles and practices, will soon be walking in the same path. The tendencies of the natural heart are downward."—*Id.*, p. 587.

"If you are approved because of your sound principles and moral worth, this is your gain. But if you are petted, and courted, and flattered because you can make bright speeches and apt remarks, and because you are cheerful, lively, and witty, and not because of intellectual and moral worth, you will be looked upon by sensible, godly men and women as an object of pity rather than envy. You should be guarded against flattery. Whoever is

foolish enough to flatter you, cannot be your true friend. Your true friends will caution, entreat, and warn you, and reprove your faults."—*Id.*, Vol. III, pp. 225, 226.

"In forming friendship, great caution should be exercised lest an intimacy be contracted with one whose example it would not be safe to imitate; for the effect of such an intimacy is to lead away from God, from devotion, and the love of the truth. It is positively dangerous for you to be intimate with friends who have not a religious experience."—*Id.*, p. 42.

"The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* p. 360.

(Please study also Section XIV, "Social Relations," in "Messages to Young People.")

### Friends

AIN'T it fine when things are going  
Topsy-turvy and askew  
To discover someone showing  
Good old-fashioned faith in you?

AIN'T it good when life seems dreary  
And your hope's about to end,  
Just to feel the handclasp cheery  
Of a fine old loyal friend?

Sure! one fellow to another  
Means a lot from day to day,  
Seems we're living for each other  
In a friendly sort of way.

When a smile or cheerful greetin'  
Means so much to fellows sore,  
Seems we ought to keep repeatin'  
Smiles an' praises more an' more.

—Edgar A. Guest.

### An Earthly Immortalization of Friendship

THE world has no more beautiful example of friendship than that told of Damon and Pythias.

Because of his opposition to Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse, Pythias was condemned to death. He begged to be allowed to return home to bid farewell to his wife and child. Damon came forward and offered himself as security for his friend, promising to die in his stead if Pythias did not return. Pythias was granted his request, but was told very sternly that the execution was to take place on a certain day and at a certain hour. If he was not back, his friend would be executed in his stead in order to appease the wrath of the tyrant. Days passed. The time of the execution approached. Pythias had not returned, and Damon was already at the place of execution. Suddenly, in the distance they saw someone running. With bated breath the crowd stood waiting as the runner came nearer. It was Pythias. He rushed through the crowd and into Damon's arms. His horse had been killed and it was only through almost superhuman effort that he was able to arrive in time. Then each of the friends pleaded to be allowed to die for the other. Dionysius was so moved that he pardoned them both and begged that he might be allowed to

share such a marvelous friendship.

This beautiful story of the highest ideal of friendship has rung down through the ages and has been immortalized in ballad, drama, and verse.



## Citizenship and My Religion

(Program for January 27)

BY W. L. BURGAN

OPENING EXERCISES.

TALK: "Citizenship."

TALK: "When to Obey and Not to Obey Laws."

READING: "Estimate of Citizenship."

DISCUSSION: "Citizenship and My Religion."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Citizenship

No doubt the most pronounced exemplification of what constitutes consistent citizenship when actuated by religious principle, is profoundly taught by Jesus in the sermon on the mount, recorded in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. The apostle Paul very skillfully sums up all of these inexhaustible fundamentals in Galatians 5:22, 23, by saying that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." And in order to emphasize the importance of possessing these characteristics, he said, "Against such there is no law," meaning that if we possess these virtues, we will never get into trouble with the laws that regulate good citizenship. None will ever give occasion to cause others to question their citizenship or their religion if they will follow the principles outlined in the golden rule, as spoken by Jesus when He said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

When we keep in mind what we want others to do to us and for us, we will want to treat them in a similar way.

Do we have any examples in the Bible of young men whose loyalty to God's law classed them as the most distinguished citizens of all their country? Yes—Joseph, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are among those mentioned. Though Joseph was but seventeen years old when he was sold into Egyptian slavery, he remained true to his heavenly citizenship even under terrible temptation, persecution, and cruelty, and was eventually rewarded with the exalted position of premier of all that land. The record in Genesis 39:2 says, "The Lord was

with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man." His name and his noble example of virtue are still admired in all the earth.

Daniel and his three companions also went through terrible trials; yet they remained true to God. The victory that they gained in refusing to eat of the king's meat that had first been offered to idols (see Daniel 1), gave them strength of character for the greater trials that placed their lives in jeopardy, and upon their emergence from the den of lions and the fiery furnace, they established the true worth of their citizenship in the earthly country in which they lived, and indicated their preparation for heavenly citizenship, which shall last throughout eternity.

In "Testimonies," Volume IV, page 525, are mentioned the experiences of a number of God's faithful men who remained true to their citizenship and who will receive the reward of the righteous. "Job was deprived of his worldly possessions, and so afflicted in body that he was abhorred by his relatives and friends; yet he preserved his integrity and faithfulness to God. Jeremiah would speak the words which God had put into his mouth, and his plain testimony so enraged the king and princes [the government leaders] that he was cast into a loathsome pit. Stephen was stoned because he would preach Christ and Him crucified. Paul was imprisoned, beaten with rods, stoned, and finally put to death, because he was a faithful messenger to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. The beloved John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, 'for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.'"

Historians tell us that all the apostles except John met violent deaths at the hands of persecutors. All these noble men were true citizens; yet they refused to withdraw their allegiance to God, even though they faced death. Jesus' admonition, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," is well worth heeding.

While it is a tremendous fact that "earthly kingdoms, nations, monarchs, statesmen, counselors, great armies, and all worldly magnificence and glory are as the dust of the balance," and that "God has a reckoning to make with all nations," yet while these nations stand, God's ambassadors should clearly see the need of exhibitions of true citizenship.



"The world is to be warned, and no soul should rest satisfied with a superficial knowledge of truth. You know not to what responsibility you may be called. You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of earth, to answer for their faith. Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused, and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study, because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you."—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education,"* p. 217.

When we heed this instruction we will have no need to quail before any earthly authority: "Many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings. Multitudes will be called to a wider ministry."—*"Education,"* p. 262.

### When to Obey and Not to Obey Laws

THE apostle Paul says: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinances of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same." Rom. 13:1-3. Yet Paul refused to deny his Lord and Master when human laws interfered with his witnessing.

The Bible gives many striking illustrations as to the time when one may test the real value of his citizenship by disobeying earthly governments. When such earthly governments deny the right to worship God in harmony with heavenly commandments, men are to obey God rather than man. In Acts 5 is the record of Peter and other apos-

ties who were imprisoned because they refused to obey the commands of men concerning their preaching of the gospel; their refusal had the approval of Heaven, as indicated in verses 19 and 20, which declare that "the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." And with Heaven's sanction of their preaching the apostles preached in the temple until they were arrested again. When they appeared before the high priest, Peter, in defense of his violation, declared, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Are there any instances today of faithful God-fearing men and women who are languishing in loathsome prison dungeons because they dared to obey God in the face of unjust, cruel, despotic, tyrannical persecuting laws?

Yes, in different countries such noble characters who would rather suffer ignominy and shame and death, if necessary, are in dirty, slimy cells, where vermin abound and filth all but nauseates them, because of their refusal to yield to the demands of wicked men in lieu of their obedience to God. The oppressive laws that have been made primarily to drown the precious rays of gospel light cannot, however, silence the souls of these cross-bearing soldiers of the heavenly King whose prayers, as they are uttered, are being borne, like so much sweet incense, to the very throne of the great Jehovah by angels; and while they are suffering today for their faithful citizenship to the heavenly country, they will someday reap the reward of the righteous in the gift of eternal life. "Those who love and serve God are to be the light of the world, shining amid moral darkness."



—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education,"* p. 480.

"The condition of being received into the Lord's family is coming out from the world, separating from all its contaminating influences. The people of God are to have no connection with idolatry in any of its forms. They are to reach a higher standard. We are to be distinguished from the world, and then God says, 'I will receive you as members of My royal family, children of the heavenly King.' As believers in the truth we are to be distinct in practice from sin and sinners. Our citizenship is in heaven."—*Id.*, p. 481.

### Citizenship and My Religion

(Discussion)

#### 1. What is a citizen?

Webster's dictionary defines a citizen thus: "An inhabitant of a city or town, especially one who enjoys its freedom and privileges; a freeman or burgess of a city, as distinguished from a foreigner or one not entitled to its franchises; one who owes allegiance to a government."

Christianity is the actuating principle of good citizenship. When the laws of God are obeyed, the laws of earthly governments will also be obeyed. The two go hand in hand. Never has a Christian maliciously violated a law of earthly government that dealt exclusively with man's relationship to man. All Christians instructed in the fundamentals of the last six commandments of the decalogue thoroughly comprehend that these commandments deal entirely with the actions of one human being toward another, and the slightest violation of any of them brings one's loyal citizenship into question.

#### 2. What is a Christian?

Webster's definition of a Christian is: "One who believes, or professes, or is assumed to believe, in Jesus Christ, and the truth as taught by Him; an adherent of Christianity; especially one whose inward and outward life is conformed to the doctrines of Christ."

How one's religion may rise or fall in the eyes of others is best demonstrated by his loyalty to the government of the country in which he is a citizen. There are a number of ways in which young people may give shining examples of their citizenship. First of all, they must be willingly obedient to all laws that concern their relationship with their fellow men. The young person who has determined to accept the teachings of Jesus Christ as the guide of his life will not only refrain from knowingly violating any of the laws that govern society, but will show to others by his example of obedience that he thoroughly acquiesces in the restrictions that deal with the liberty and pursuit of happiness of all human beings.

For instance, no one professing re-

higion would steal; neither would he encourage anyone else to steal. He would not practice deception with malicious intent to harm his fellow creatures; neither would he sanction such a practice in others. He would not do bodily harm to anyone or encourage others to do it. He would not be loud or boisterous in public, for such conduct is a violation of the laws that deal with the peace of others. While the apostle Paul admonished the young man Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," the same scripture may be very appropriately paraphrased to urge upon all who profess the name of Christ to study to show themselves approved unto all their fellow men, that they may not speak evil at any time of their good name. In expressing the value of a good name, Solomon said, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."

He would never taunt a policeman who has been appointed as a guardian of the peace. Nor would he encourage anyone to do anything that would in any way make anyone else unhappy, or uncomfortable, or place him in any kind of distress. He would never violate the automobile speed laws, for several reasons: First, such violations belie one's profession of following the lowly Nazarene, who admonishes all to be subject to the laws of the country. Second, not only are the lives of drivers and the lives of those riding with them endangered, but such recklessness may send someone to the hospital, and as the outcome he may be crippled for the rest of his days. It is the better part of wisdom to heed the admonition of the apostle Paul, who said, "Ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly." Acts 19:36.

### 3. What is religion?

Webster declares: Religion is "the outward act or form by which men indicate their recognition of the existence of a god or of gods having power over their destiny, to whom obedience, service, and honor are due."

If our citizenship on the earth is beyond reproach, then we will be in a condition to enjoy the greater citizenship of heaven. No one can maliciously violate the laws that are adopted in this earth for the happiness of all human inhabitants and expect to enter the pearly gates of Paradise, for the laws of God, which are perfect in every detail, demand that we continue on probation in this life preparatory to entering into the perfect life in the Saviour's presence, where no thought of violating those laws will ever come into mind.

❖ ❖

Books are not made for furniture, but nothing so beautifully furnishes a home.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

## Estimate of Citizenship

THAT such characters as are pointed out in the Bible are needed in the world in order to demonstrate to multitudes the right caliber of citizenship is proved by remarks made by President Roosevelt in a message to a National Meeting for Moral Rearmament, held in Washington, D.C., on June 4, 1939. He said:

"The underlying strength of the world must consist in the moral fiber of her citizens. A program of moral rearmament cannot fail, therefore, to lessen the danger of armed conflict. Such moral rearmament, to be most highly effective, must receive support on a world-wide basis."

A similar message from members of the British House of Commons said:

"We join you in affirming our loyalty to those moral and spiritual principles which are more fundamental than any political or economic issue, and which are the common heritage of our people."

"There is urgent need to acknowledge the sovereign authority of God in home and nation, to establish that liberty which rests upon the Christian responsibility to all one's fellow men, and to build a national life based on unselfishness, unity, and faith."

## Thought Questions

1. WHAT has citizenship to do with Christianity?
2. How may one's religion rise or fall in the eyes of others as his citizenship is demonstrated?
3. What reward is promised to those whose citizenship on earth is actuated by their loyalty to God's government?

## Officers' Notes

(Continued from page 16)

### February Topics

- 3 Strengthen the Home Ties
- 10 Sin, The Only Thing God Hates
- 17 Training for Leadership
- Junior—Do You Take Responsibility?
- 24 Striving for the Mastery
- Junior—I Will "Care for My Body"

## Fellowship Committee

THOSE timid, backward young people in your church—do they attend the Missionary Volunteer Society meeting regularly? When they do attend, are they not some of the last to enter the society meeting, and do they not sit somewhere back in the corner of the room? At the close of the meeting, are they not some of the first to disappear—anywhere, just so they can get away from the young people who freely mingle in Christian fellowship? How long

have such come and gone without your society leaders' getting a real grasp on them?

How about those strangers who came to the last society meeting? Did you learn who they were, whence they came, and where they are going? Will you see them again? Perhaps you will, perhaps not. Did any one of the society members give them a hand of welcome?

Don't you think that every society should have a fellowship committee who make it their business to make the strangers feel at home and the backward and timid feel that they belong to a society where love and Christian fellowship pervade the hearts of all? Think about the importance of such a fellowship committee. Do you have one in your society?

D. A. OCHS.

## Missionary Volunteer Banners

Now every young people's society can proudly display a set of the Missionary Volunteer Society banners.

The following banners are made of dark-green felt which will last for years, with gold-felt Old English letters, and may be purchased directly from the United States Poster Company, 330 H. Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.:

Aim .....	\$3.75
Motto .....	3.75
Senior Pledge .....	7.50
Total Senior .....	\$15.00
Junior Pledge .....	\$6.00
Junior Law .....	6.00
Total Junior .....	\$12.00
(With aim and motto, \$19.50)	

Or, if your society cannot afford these more enduring banners, you may purchase cardboard charts through your Book and Bible House, as follows:

M.V. Charts—5, M.V. Aim; 6, M.V. Motto; 7-S, Senior M.V. Pledge; 7-J, Junior M.V. Pledge; 8-J, Junior M.V. Law; for 20 cents each, or, in orders of five or more, for 15 cents each.

Do not be without one set or the other of M.V. banners. M. W. M.

## Missionary Volunteer Offerings

WE would remind the Missionary Volunteer Society officers of the plan adopted by the Missionary Volunteer Secretaries' Council regarding society offerings. The offerings of the Missionary Volunteer Society are divided so that half are apportioned for local society work and half are sent on to the conference as foreign mission offerings. Foreign mission offerings are sent on through the church treasurer, of course, and the treasurer of the society should be sure that the offering receipted on the church treasurer's slip is marked "M.V.," so that it can be properly credited to the Missionary Volunteer Society.

A. W. P.



## Junior Meetings

### My Devotional Life

(Program for January 6)

BY E. W. DUNBAR

OPENING SONG: "Give Me the Bible."  
KEY THOUGHT: "Let the youth of today, the youth who are growing up with the Bible in their hands, become the recipients and the channels of its life-giving energy, and what streams of blessing would flow forth to the world!"—*Education*, p. 192.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERING.

REMARKS BY SUPERINTENDENT, including the Memory Gem.

TALK: "A Book in a Tree."

POEM: "The Sufficing Bible."

OBJECT SERMON: "Hiding God's Word."

TALK: "The Four H's."

TESTIMONY SERVICE.

ENROLLMENT FOR THE MORNING WATCH AND THE BIBLE YEAR.

CLOSING SONG: "I Would Be True."  
BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Superintendents

Give special study to the Notes to Leaders and program material found in the Senior M.V. section.

Your chief object in this meeting is to encourage every Junior to adopt the Morning Watch and the Bible Year habits. Be prepared to distribute the "Junior Bible Year," M.V. Leaflet 17.

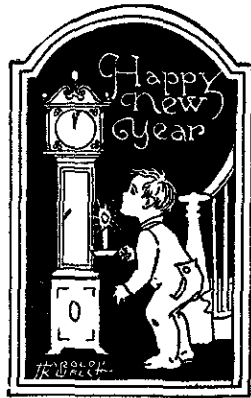
This program, like all others, should progress with dispatch and enthusiasm. Time should be allowed at the close for the signing of pledges. The M.V. Record Blank 12 is the enrollment blank and may serve as a pledge for both the Morning Watch and the Bible Year. M.V. Pledge 7 is the Morning Watch Pledge card. It may be that Juniors will have personal experiences and blessings from devotional habits to report. If so, time spent in such testimonies will be valuably spent.

### Hiding God's Word

(Objects: A funnel, a sifter or a sieve, and a sponge.)

Boys and girls, I want to tell you about three kinds of hearers who are generally found in church and Sabbath school every Sabbath. I wonder how you hear the word as it is given out each Sabbath? I will let these three objects help you to classify yourself.

Now here is a FUNNEL. You have all seen a funnel, haven't you? Most of your mothers have one in the kitchen, and no doubt you've often



seen her use it in pouring liquid from one jar to another. I'm going to use it this morning to fill these jars with water. See how the water goes right through! The funnel looks as empty now after the water has been poured into it as it did before. You know, boys and girls, some people who come to church and Sabbath school every Sabbath are "funnel hearers." The message goes in one ear and out the other. The water I poured into the funnel pictures the word of God which is given out each Sabbath; but after leaving church or Sabbath school the funnel hearers can't remember a word they have heard. By Saturday night the message has quite gone out of their minds and lives, and they are as empty as the funnel. Things just won't stick in the minds and hearts of the funnel hearers. Oh, I do trust that you boys and girls don't belong to this class, but if you do, I hope you will get out of it immediately.

Here is another object that is found in your mother's kitchen—a SIFTER. Of course you know that this sifter is used to sift flour. After the flour is sifted, only lumps which are good for nothing remain in the sifter. Did you know that some folk are sifter hearers? No matter how good the message, by the time they reach home all the good of the message has been sifted away, and only the lumps or unimportant parts are remembered. If there is any part of the sermon that the hearer doesn't like, the sifter hearer is sure to remember this very part. Sifter hearers are continually finding fault or picking flaws with what they have heard. This is surely not a very good class of hearers, is it?

Now my last object is a SPONGE. Let us see how this sponge will act when it is put into this bowl of water. Why, it takes it all in and leaves not a drop in the bowl! Best of all, it not only takes in the water, but hides it away and keeps it. What a fine group of hearers this sponge pictures!

Like the sponge, they drink in the water of the word, every drop of it. Not only do they hear it, but they also hide it away in their hearts and lives to help them live for the Lord Jesus all through the week. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee," Psalms 119:11. The word to them, too, is food to nourish and strengthen. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jer. 15:16.

This is the kind of hearer I'm sure that you boys and girls want to be—a sponge hearer. May you go away today determined to read a portion of God's Holy Word every day, and to make the Morning Watch exercise very sincere and real in your daily experience.

### The Four H's

**Approach:** Do you suppose that every home in this town has a Bible in it? Do you suppose that everyone who has a Bible reads it every day? If all the Bibles in this town were destroyed today and we were asked to reproduce the Bible this morning from memory, how much of it would you want to write? There are four good places for the Bible—the home, the hand, the head, and the heart. It is a fine thing to have the Bible in the home and in the hand, but it is better to have it in the head and in the heart. Suppose we passed around pencil and paper today and said, "No one can leave the room until he has written perfectly ten Bible verses from memory."

**Story:** In days gone by when Bibles were scarce, not everyone could own a Bible. The printing press had not been invented. Bibles were copied by hand. Only educated people could make a copy. It would take a learned man several years to copy one Bible. In those days it was necessary to put chain and padlock upon a Bible when it was placed in a church for public use. People would line up and wait their turn to read or to copy a few verses. That was a time when young and old tried to have the Bible in the heart.

One day there came a persecution of the Christians. Their Bibles were burned. The women stood by weeping. Men, women, and children were sad. It would be a long time before they would see another Holy Bible. While the Bibles were burning, a boy stood by laughing. Some people thought him crazy. They said, "Why laugh when the Bible is being burned?" The boy touched his forehead and said, "They can burn the Bible, but they cannot take away what I have stored in my brain." He had the Bible in his head. No doubt he had the Bible in his heart also.

Let us repeat together the words in Psalms 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

## Memory Gem

"NONE but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men?"—*"The Great Controversy,"* pp. 593, 594.

## A Book in a Tree

Text: Psalms 119:11

WHO ever heard of a book in a tree? I mean inside the tree. I do not mean a tree with a hole in it, either, but a good, live, solid tree, sound at heart, with a book inside the growing wood.

Well, I knew of just that thing. It happened out in California, where there are so many wonderful trees. A student by the name of Blockman was reading and using as a back rest what is called a Digger pine, that was growing on his father's ranch in the Cathay Valley. The tree was a fine old favorite and had been a landmark for many years. Indian skulls and Indian objects of handiwork had been found near by, and people said the spot had been used long ago as a meeting place for Indian tribes. Many people had sat under the pine tree or passed it by with a word of admiration, but had noticed nothing in particular. This young student, however, became curious about a sort of scar on the tree, and with the blade of his knife scaled off a piece of bark and ran the blade into the tree. After he had done a little probing, there came out bits of paper; then with the aid of a sharp ax, he cut into the tree. There he found embedded a small leather-covered Bible or prayer book containing the date 1849, which had been used as a book of devotion. Since the middle of the nineteenth century the tree had had the little book it its keeping. It had doubtless been left in a notch cut in the tree, as on a little shelf, and the tree had grown around it and hidden it.

It is a curious and interesting story, but a tree is no place for a Bible. It does no good to hide a Bible in a tree. There is a better place to hide the Bible. (Read Psalms 119:11.) "How," you ask, "can you hide the Bible in your heart?" Well, how do you hide anything in your heart? Everyone hides words and sounds and sights and faces and things in his heart, and you can hide the words and messages and pictures and people of the Bible

in your heart. You remember that Mary, the mother of Jesus, hid all His words and pondered them in her heart. That is the way to use the Bible. Learn its words. Memorize its great texts. Get to know its stories, so that if you were ever to be in a place where you could not have a Bible, or if all the Bibles in the world were lost, you would still have yours hidden in your heart.—*Hugh T. Kerr*, in *"Children's Nature Story-Sermons,"* (abridged).

## The Sufficing Bible

WHEN I am tired, the Bible is my bed;  
Or in the dark, the Bible is my light;  
When I am hungry, it is vital bread;  
Or fearful, it is armor for the fight.  
When I am sick, 'tis healing medicine;  
Or lonely, thronging friends I find therein.

If I would work, the Bible is my tool;  
Or play, it is a harp of happy sound;  
If I am ignorant, it is my school;  
If I am sinking, it is solid ground.  
If I am cold, the Bible is my fire;  
And it is wings, if boldly I aspire.

Should I be lost, the Bible is my guide;  
Or naked, it is raiment rich and warm;  
Am I imprisoned? it is rauges wide;  
Or tempest tossed? a shelter from the storm.  
Would I adventure, 'tis a gallant sea;  
Or would I rest, it is a flowery lea.

Does gloom oppress? the Bible is a sun;  
Or ugliness? it is a garden fair;  
Am I ahirst? how cool its currents run!  
Or stifled? what a vivifying air!  
Since thus thou givest of thyself to me,  
How should I give myself, great Book, to thee!

—Amos R. Wells.

✻ ✻

WHEN you save a man or a woman,  
you save a unit. When you save a boy  
or a girl, you save a whole multiplication table.—*John Wanamaker*.

✻ ✻

## The Call to Service

(Program for January 13)

BY ANDREW C. FEARING

SONG: "Soldiers of the Cross." (Songs today are listed in "Missionary Volunteer Songs.")

PRAYER.

REPORTS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE. (See Notes to Leaders, p. 19.)

TALK: "Mary's Convert."

OBJECT TALK: "Shining."

SONG: "Brighten the Corner Where You Are."

READING: "Loyal to His Vow."

READING: "Larry's Example."

TALK: "Why Bill Lost Out."

CLOSING SONG: "The Captain Calls for You."

BENEDICTION.

## Notes to Superintendents

The purpose of this program is to enable our boys and girls to visualize a few of the ways in which they may accept God's call for service. Juniors like to do something definite for Jesus. Show them what to do and how to do it, and they will respond readily. The leader might use the object talk, "Shining," to introduce this program. Ask the Juniors to name the many ways in which they may shine in service for Jesus. Have this list grow on a blackboard throughout the program. As an outgrowth of this program, organize missionary service bands and start the Juniors on the requirements for the earning of a Christian Help Certificate (see pages 50 and 51 in "Junior Handbook") or a Missionary Endeavor Certificate. (See Id., pages 75 and 76.)

## Mary's Convert

MARY was just ten years old. Loving Jesus with all her heart, she joined the Missionary Volunteer Society Correspondence Band. Some thought she was a little too young, but she was so zealous that they allowed her to take part. Mary was to bring ten names of her own choosing. She chose the first ten names in the telephone directory. Faithfully the literature went to these homes every week for two months. Then the pastor started a series of evangelistic meetings, and naturally there were many announcements to be handed out. Mary sent the announcements to each of her ten names.

Toward the end of the meetings calls were made by the minister for those who desired to take their stand for the truth of God. Among the first to come forward was a fine middle-aged woman. During the course of the conversation which followed, she happened to mention how she first began to attend the meetings. "Someone," she said, "has been sending me some papers called *Present Truth*. I read them and believed the truth taught therein, but I did not know what to do about it. One day an announcement of these meetings came along with the paper; so I thought I would see what they were like. And I found the same message here that the papers contained. I wish I knew who has been sending me those papers."

Can you imagine the happy meeting between Mary and this new convert to Christ? Mary knows the thrill of accepting the call to service.

## Shining

PREPARE about six or seven different lengths of candles, varying from about one inch high to about one foot high. The smaller lengths may be cut from one candle. Secure them with their own wax to a board. Present this row of candles to the Juniors, and tell them that this is a family ranging from little baby sister to grandfather. Ask them which candle represents grandfather and which represents baby sister, etc. Most of them will no doubt choose the small candle to represent baby sister, but the opposite is true. The tallest one we have is the baby and the little inch-high candle represents grandfather. Why? He does not have long to shine for Jesus. His life is almost spent. You may use Matthew 5:14, 15; Daniel 12:3; and Isaiah 60:1 in this lesson of shining for Jesus.

Ideas will come to your mind as you consider the following points: Accepting God's call early in life means having a longer time to shine for Jesus. Baby's candle gives just as much light as father's or mother's candle. Shining for Jesus lights the path so that others will not stumble or lose the way. Each light has its special place in the world. No one else can shine for you in your place. What would be the result if your light should go out? It means your sphere would be left in darkness.

*Concluding Thought:* The Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world. We cannot shine without Him in our hearts. Prayer, Bible study, and Christian service are the fuels which will keep the "light" inside glowing brightly.

## Loyal to His Vow

IN many schools of Europe it is customary for the students to say a sentence or two when their diplomas are presented to them. A few years ago, there was graduated at Glenalmond School, in Scotland, a lad of seventeen who said upon receiving his parchment, "I intend to live a clean life and honor this school. So help me, Lord."

Shortly after this he became an officer in the Highlanders. He was aboard the "Birkenhead" when she struck a rock, and the men stood by while the women and the children were being saved. Alexander Russell—that was the name of the young officer—was ordered to help man one of the boats carrying the women and children away from the doomed ship. Watching from a distance he saw the steamer go down, carrying with it hundreds of brave hearts. He saw the sharks, those fearful creatures of the deep, seizing their prey, and heard the screams of men who were being torn to pieces. Then, just when all seemed safe for him, he saw a form float close to the boat on a piece of wreckage; a hand reached out and tried to

grasp the side. There was not room in the craft for one more person. But as a sailor's face rose clear at the boat's side, a woman aboard called out, "Save him! Save him! He's my husband!"

"No room," someone answered; "better one man drown than all of us!" But Russell looked at the woman, at her children, at the sailor struggling helplessly in the waves, and then at the dreaded sharks feasting on every side. He rose from his seat in the stern of the boat and, with a bold plunge, jumped clear. He helped the drowning man into what had been his own place—and safety. Then this brave young officer, a lad of seventeen, said, "God bless you all," and swam away to meet his death.

A tablet has been placed in Glenalmond School which bears this inscription: "In memory of Alexander Cummine Russell. He kept his word; he lived a clean life and honored this school."

Russell died with his life dream unfulfilled, but he died keeping his word. It is better to be true to what you know is right than to win success. The fact that he stood firm for what he thought to be his duty made him the hero we admire.

We may never have to undergo the test which Alexander Russell had to face. Yet every day in our humble place we meet tests of character, ideals, and principles. We are called by God to witness daily for Him. Are we going to stand as Russell did, or are we going to yield to what the world calls fame, honor, happiness, and success? Let us esteem answering God's call for service, no matter where or what it may be, the summit of our success.

It does not pay to yield to the voice of him who would do us ill instead of good. If we maintain our allegiance to God, we shall be suitable citizens for a place in that home which Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Yes, let us begin now, today, in the strength of God, to live a clean life, to be strong, true, pure, kind, good, and noble.

(Repeat the Junior Pledge in unison.) In keeping this pledge we shall honor our God, our country, our parents, our friends, and our school.

## Larry's Example

LARRY used to watch his mother every Sabbath as she filled in the missionary report blank showing the service she had been able to give Jesus during that week.

"Mother," asked Larry, "may I report, too? Help me to do something for Jesus."

So every week thereafter Larry was happy to give out papers which told of Jesus' love and of our wonderful message which will prepare people for heaven. He also gave his *Little Friend* to a sick boy down the street; helped a crippled man; ran errands

for a feeble, aged woman who lived on his block; picked flowers and gave them to those who were ill. It was surprising how much he was able to report every week in the Junior column of the missionary report blank. By the way, Larry was too small to write himself—his mother did this for him—but he was not too small to answer God's call for service, and he was not too small to find many things he could do for others.

One day two men were working in Larry's home, painting, cleaning, and papering. For a long while he stood in the doorway watching the two men as they redecorated the kitchen. Finally he ran into the front room where mother was sitting.

"Mother, do you think those men in the kitchen love Jesus?"

"Well, I don't know, Larry. Why don't you ask them?"

Back he came to the doorway. It seemed so hard to ask that question with the two men there. But in a short time one man left.

"What is your name, sonny?" asked the man on top of the ladder.

"Larry," came the answer.

"Well, would you like to be a painter, Larry?"

"No, sir—but—I would like to know, mister, if you love Jesus."

The man laid his brush aside, came down the ladder, knelt, and took little Larry in his arms. "Yes, lad, I do love Jesus, and I love Him very much, but I've never had the courage that you have to ask anyone else if he knew Him. Thank you for asking me."

Larry, with a heart full of joy, ran to the front room, and, throwing his arms around his mother, said, "Oh, mother, he loves Jesus, and I'm so glad I asked him!"

A little later that afternoon, that man, inspired by Larry's example, asked his partner the same question that had been put to him. His friend did not know Jesus, but before that afternoon was over, he had been told the beautiful story of Jesus and of the life He gave that we all may live with Him forever.

What a wonderful picture Larry saw toward the close of the afternoon as he peeped through the slightly open door: two men kneeling in prayer, one in a reconsecration of his own life for service, the other just beginning his friendship with Jesus.

## Why Bill Lost Out

BILL and I were the best of pals when we were boys, and I had often wondered what became of him, for he and I used to plan together what we were going to be when we grew up. Bill was always interested in bridges, and many were the times he used to take me down to the "big bridge," as he called it, and show me what he wanted to build when he was a man.

Bill was a good Christian, and he wanted to save souls, and he felt that if he could be a good engineer, he could build good bridges and help to save the men who worked for him. Deep down in his heart that was his call to service.

My parents moved away, however, and I lost track of Bill. The other day I was in my old home town and I set about to find him. The woman at the house where he was rooming told me I could probably find him "hanging around the drugstore on the corner." There was Bill all right—not the Bill I had hoped to find, but a weak-looking man, leaning lazily against the side of the store window with a group of equally dissipated-looking fellows who were telling some foolish story.

I asked him how he was getting along and if he remembered about the bridges and the service he was going to be to mankind. Oh, yes, he remembered, but things had not gone as he had hoped. He was in school awhile, but—and so it went. He realized that he was a failure, but what could he do when he did not have a chance and was crushed with "tons of misfortune"?

Poor Bill! He heard the call of God to service and accomplishment, but he did not have the power to stick; and about the only title I can give to him is that of "quitter." You know the type of boy and girl I mean—they start out with a big flare and then go out at the first gust of wind. They accept the call of God for service, and attack their school-work with determination. Then they hit a bump, and they want to quit and give up their vision of successful service for Christ. They get along very well until they come to a hill, and then they abandon their pursuit.

When God calls on us for service, it means that He needs a youth who will qualify in spite of hills, who will stick to the fight until any seeming failure turns into victory, who will press onward with a courage that rises as the difficulties thicken.

☞ ☞

I'm but a little boy, 'tis true,  
But I've a purpose planned,  
Like Daniel ever to be true,  
And by that purpose stand.

I love the temperance cause, you know,  
I love my native land;  
I signed the pledge some time ago,  
And thus for temperance stand.

—Author Unknown.

## Being Sensible About Our Friendships

(Program for January 20)

BY GRACE KELSEY-KEITH

OPENING SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," No. 643 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 18:24; James 4:4; Proverbs 27:6, 9, 10; James 2:23.

PRAYER.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION: "Being Sensible About Our Friendships," p. 21.

TALK: "The Perfect Friend," p. 21. SONG: By two Juniors—"The Best Friend Is Jesus," No. 50.

FRIENDSHIP QUIZ: "Who Are These Friends?"

STORY: "The Colonel's Word Shall Stand."

SYMPOSIUM OR SUPERINTENDENT'S TALK: "Counsel From the Spirit of Prophecy," p. 21.

CLOSING SONG: "I've Found a Friend," No. 332.

BENEDICTION.

### Who Are These Friends?

1. THERE was a quiet home in Bethany to which Jesus loved to come apart and rest. A brother and two sisters lived in this home, and the love between Jesus and these friends was mutual. Who were these three friends? (*Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.*)

2. I am thinking of a young man who from childhood had been trained to love and serve the Lord. Although he was a mere youth, he was so faithful, steadfast, and true that he was chosen by a great apostle as his traveling companion on three extensive missionary journeys. Who were these friends? (*Paul and Timothy.*)

3. I am thinking of two other friends mentioned in the Bible. Their friendship was so true, and their love for each other so great, that the one shielded the other even though he knew it might mean his own death. Their friendship was so void of envy or selfishness that though the one was heir to the throne as king of Israel, he was willing to become second in the kingdom that his friend might rule in his stead. A thrilling story. (Read it in "Patriarchs and Prophets" at your leisure. It is full of inspiration and love.) Who were these friends? (*Jonathan and David.*)

4. Who is spoken of in the Bible as "a friend of God"? (*Abraham.*)

### "The Colonel's Word Shall Stand"

DURING my military service in India, in those stirring times of mutiny and murder, I had in my regiment a little bugler who was too weak and delicate for the life he had to lead. He was born in the regiment; his father had been killed in action, and then his mother drooped and died. After his

mother died, his life was made miserable by the scoffing sneers and ribald jokes of the men, whose butt he was.

When little Willie Holt was fourteen years old, the regiment was bivouacking some miles from camp for rifle practice. I had intended leaving the lad behind, but my sergeant major begged hard to "take him along." "There is mischief in the air, colonel," he said; "and, rough as they treat the lad, his pluck and his patience tell on 'em; for the boy is a saint, sir; he is, indeed."

I had a rough lot of recruits just then. Before we had been out a fortnight, several acts of insubordination had been brought to my notice, and I had pledged to make an example of the very next offense by having the culprit flogged.

One night targets were thrown down and otherwise mutilated. On investigation the act was traced to the occupants of a certain tent. In vain I appealed to them to produce the man, and at last I said: "If any one of you who slept in number four tent last night will come forward and take his punishment like a man, the rest will get off free; but if not, there remains no alternative but to punish you all, each in turn to receive ten strokes of the cat."

For the space of two minutes, dead silence followed; then, from the midst of the soldiers, where his slight form had been completely hidden, Willie Holt came forward.

"Colonel," said he, "you have passed your word that if any one of those who slept in number four tent last night comes forward to take his punishment, the rest shall get off free. I am ready, sir; please, may I have it now?"

For a moment I was speechless, so utterly was I taken by surprise; then in a fury of anger and disgust, I turned upon the soldiers: "Is there no man among you worthy of the name? Are you all cowards enough to let this lad suffer for your sins? That he is guiltless, you know as well as I." But sullen and silent they stood, with never a word.

Then I turned to the boy, whose pleading eyes were fixed on me, and never in all my life have I found myself so painfully situated. I knew my word must stand, and the lad knew it, too, as he repeated, "I am ready, sir."

Sick at heart, I gave the order, and he was led away for punishment. Bravely he stood with bared back, as one, two, three strokes descended. At the fourth a faint moan escaped his white lips, but ere the fifth fell, a hoarse cry burst from the crowd of men who had been forced to witness the scene, and with one bound Jim Sykes—the black sheep of the regiment—seized the cat, as with choking utterance he shouted, "Stop it, colonel, stop it, and tie me up instead; he never did it, but I did;" and with convulsed and anguished face he flung his arms around the boy.

Fainting and almost speechless, Willie lifted his eyes to the man's face and smiled—such a smile! "No, Jim," he whispered, "you are safe now; the colonel's word will stand." Then his head fell forward—he had fainted.

The next day I visited the hospital tent where the boy lay dying. The shock had been too much for his feeble strength. He lay propped upon the pillows; and at his side, half kneeling, half crouching, was Jim Sykes. I saw the drops of sweat standing on his brow as he muttered brokenly, "Why did ye do it, lad? Why did ye do it?"

"Because I wanted to take it for you, Jim," Willie's weak voice answered tenderly. "I thought it might help you to understand why Christ died for you."

"Christ died for me?"

"Yes, He died for you because He loved you. I love you, Jim, but Christ loves you much more. I suffered for only one sin, but Christ took the punishment for all the sins you have ever committed. The penalty was death, Jim, and Christ died for you."

"Christ has nought to do with such as me, lad; I'm one of the bad 'uns; you ought to know."

"But He died to save the bad ones," answered Willie. "After you have sinned against Him, He loves you so much that He came all the way from heaven and suffered and died in your place, and now He is calling you. He wants to cleanse you from every stain of sin and make you fit for His presence. He wants you to live with Him in glory. He was wounded for your transgressions. He was bruised for your iniquities. How can you resist such love as that?"

"He said, 'He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.' Won't you receive Him now?"

The lad's voice failed him, but he laid his hand gently on the man's bowed head as he drew his last breath. Truly, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—*Selected.*



## Citizenship and My Religion

(Program for January 27)

BY W. L. BURGAN

### OPENING EXERCISES.

TALK: "Obedient Youth Help to Preserve Nations."

SYMPOSIUM: "Some 'Don'ts' to Observe." (See Notes to Superintendents.)

READING: "Jesus Hears the Youth and Loves Them."

DISCUSSION: "Citizenship and My Religion." (See Notes to Superintendents.)

### CLOSING EXERCISES.

## Notes to Superintendents

*Symposium: "Some Don'ts to Observe."*—This is divided into seven parts, and can be given to as many Juniors.

*Discussion: "Citizenship and My Religion."*—It would be well to have an older person lead out in this discussion to give it direction and to round out the ideas presented.

## Obedient Youth Help to Preserve Nations

EVERY nation on earth needs young men and young women, boys and girls, who will not only obey the laws that offer protection to everybody, but will lead others to obey them. Without young people who are determined to do what they know to be right, nations would eventually be destroyed by the wicked people within their own lands, which means that murder, robbery, and many other kinds of wicked acts would be committed, and there would be no peace or safety for anybody. Nations must have laws for the protection of their citizens, and the good people, those who are religious and believe in the higher laws made by the Lord Jesus, are the ones who must band together and uphold the laws of their country.

The best way for youth to prove that their citizenship is directed by their religion is to uphold the hands of the law officers by doing right themselves and by setting the proper example to playmates, companions, and others in whose company they may be; in fact, their influence should always be on the side of right behavior—the behavior taught them by their law-loving, law-respecting parents, whose experience in knowing what terrible crimes are committed by lawbreakers should never be questioned. The children who follow the advice of their parents rather than assume that they know more than mother or father, are the ones who develop into real, genuine citizens who have and hold the respect of their fellow men.

Children would do well to ponder remarks made by Dr. Morris S. Lazaron, a Hebrew rabbi of a large synagogue in Baltimore, Maryland, who spoke to 2,000 graduates of a high school in a suburb of that great city on June 21, 1939. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, of the next day, Doctor Lazaron said to these graduates:

"America still is in the making and needs youth—not the brand that is swept off its feet by fear, prejudice, and passion, but youth that knows what it wants."

"In the United States, which attracted to it the bravest and strongest men from the Old World and which developed a great culture, there is need for unity of its people at present."

"To face this demanding and challenging world, youth must have, in addition to strong bodies and sound minds, a resolute spirit and a love of God. And youth must not forget that to these values must be added the knowledge that life is built upon stable factors derived through the years from the history of the race."

This might be said about every nation on earth, for surely no nation can develop without strong, courageous youth; and the more youth study their Bible and learn from its sacred pages what God would have them do, the greater will they be when they grow into manhood and womanhood, and the greater will be the nation of which they are a part.

## Some "Don'ts" to Observe

1. Don't be a whisperer, especially to criticize others.

A whisperer separateth friends. Prov. 16:28.

A whisperer's words are as wounds. Prov. 18:8.

A whisperer stirreth up strife. Prov. 26:20.

A whisperer is classed among those whose sins make them worthy of eternal death. Rom. 1:29.

The tongue is an unruly member. Rom. 3:13-18. The apostle Paul says that in human throats that are not under the control of the Holy Spirit is found deceit; that "the poison of asps is under their lips: . . . full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood." He also says that "destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known." This is a terrible indictment, and youth who love Jesus will shun to engage in back-biting and unjust criticism, which, if continued, will lead to more serious wrongs until such offenders get into trouble for which they will be punished by the law authorities.

2. Don't choose companions aside from those who will help you to do right. Shun the society of those who will not help to develop right principles and noble purposes. Boys and girls will be dragged away from the right paths if they select loud and boisterous friends who use vile language and express disrespect for the church and for those who attend church and Sabbath school.



3. Don't mingle with cigarette smokers, or tobacco chewers, or with those who gamble with dice or who pitch pennies.

4. Don't copy those who rub red paint over their lips and rouge on their faces and decorate their fingernails and toenails with red until they remind you of the wild natives of Africa who have had these heathen customs handed down to them through the centuries. There is nothing attractive in such practices, but on the other hand, they indicate shallow thinking and a lack of good sense. Such girls never become substantial mothers, nor do their sons make leaders among the citizens of countries in which they live.

5. Don't play cards, for such a practice leads to gambling, and gambling leads to poverty, to prison, to murder, and to the gallows, electric chair, or guillotine.

6. Don't attend the theater, for it is the very hotbed of immorality. "Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. . . . There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life, than theatrical amusements."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 380.

7. Don't visit the dance hall or the ballroom where only sordid mirth prevails, where the piano and other instruments blast out rasping sounds that make Satan and his imps laugh with glee as they see their human victims worked up into a frenzy of passion, with only words and thoughts of ridicule for divine admonitions, warnings, and instruction. A study of Belshazzar's fate on that night of impious revelry in the courts of Babylon when he and his lords and ladies drank intoxicating liquors from the sacred vessels that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem, will convince all who are looking for the return of Jesus that the spirits of demons had control of the king and his guests. A violent death came to Belshazzar and perhaps to all the others present at that iniquitous gathering. Then also occurred the overthrow of the world's mightiest empire. Surely Solomon was right when he said that wine is a mocker and is deceiving, and the youth who believe differently are not wise.

### Jesus Hears the Youth and Loves Them

JESUS "hears every word that is spoken, listens to every prayer that is offered, tastes the sorrows and disappointments of every soul, regards the treatment that is given to father, mother, sister, friend, and neighbor.

He cares for our necessities, and His love and mercy and grace are continually flowing to satisfy our need."—*"Mount of Blessing,"* p. 156.

"One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ, in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for us."—*Id.* p. 150.

"The city of God will open its golden gates to receive him who learned while on earth to lean on God for guidance and wisdom, for comfort and hope, amid loss and affliction. The songs of the angels will welcome him there, and for him the tree of life shall yield its fruit."—*Id.*, p. 148.

### Citizenship and My Religion

1. WHAT is citizenship, and what does my religion have to do with it?

2. What should be my conduct toward my fellow playmates, or schoolmates, or associates, or others whom I do not know?

3. What should youth do to develop character?

#### DISCUSSION

1. Citizenship involves all people in the country in which they live. The more law-abiding the people, the less trouble they have. Every nation, in order to keep the good people in it happy, contented, prosperous, peaceful, and protected against wicked people, must have laws, and grown-up citizens of these nations make the laws with the thought generally in mind to give everybody as pleasant a life as possible. Youth whose religion is a reality to them can do much toward helping to keep peace in the nation of which they are a part.

If thieves break into the homes of citizens who obey the laws, they are punished; if men steal from other men, they are punished; if men set other people's houses or business buildings on fire, they are punished. If men pick other men's pockets, they are punished. If boys break the windows of other people's houses just to be doing so, they are punished. If boys or men or girls do other things that are wrong, they are punished. And such lawbreakers are not good citizens.

2. A child who will obey what mother or father says concerning his conduct in the home will generally treat his friends or neighbors or even strangers of his own age in the right way. He will not want to take advantage of another youth and bring distress of mind or body upon him. He will not want to abuse anyone else; neither will he heap ridicule on or poke fun at someone else who may be less fortunate. He will not say mean things about the kind of clothes another is wearing. In recreations, such as baseball games, tennis matches, running contests, swimming events, a youth who has been faithful and cooperative in the home by heed-

ing the advice of parents will engage in these contests honorably and will give his competitors fair dealing even though he may be defeated. Youth who play fair in their early years of life and continue to play fair with others as they grow older are bound to develop in character, and when they reach manhood or womanhood, they will do their part toward making others happy, and thus help to make the world a much better place in which to live. They will not only obey the laws that regulate society, but they will demonstrate their citizenship by influencing others in the right way.

Youth should conduct themselves properly not only in their recreations, but also in the schoolroom. Teachers, as a rule, love the children in their classes, and want to help them to grow mentally, morally, and spiritually, knowing that when the children do accept Jesus as their guide and pattern, they will obey the laws of the city, town, country, or state in which they live, for such laws are made to give children as well as adults happiness, peace, and protection. Children who yield obedience and faithfulness to their teachers, whether in the day school or Sabbath school, always develop into real men and women and become a credit to their home and country.

3. Paul's admonition to Timothy has in it all the essentials necessary for the development of character. The seasoned apostle told the aspiring youth: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15. He urged Timothy to "shun profane and vain babblings," which is good counsel for the youth of today to follow. Among the things which youth should do in the formation of character are these: they should develop individual responsibility, do daily acts of kindness, engage in clean health habits, develop will power to do that which is right, control the power of thoughts, so that only thoughts that are ennobling and uplifting are exercised, conquer the slightest weakness toward failure by doing things that succeed, form associations and companionships that bring improvement to the mind and personal conduct, and heed the admonition of the wisest man on earth, who said: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." And what is the beginning of wisdom? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." "And," as Job says, "to depart from evil is understanding." Read Proverbs 3 and 4, and Job 28. Study the life of Jesus carefully and prayerfully. A determination to follow in His steps will eventually lead the youth into the eternal kingdom of God, where they will be citizens, without fear or molestation of any kind, throughout the ceaseless ages. The reward is well worth the effort.

## Our Foreign Missions

These pages provide interesting and helpful material for church elders and conference workers in promoting foreign mission work, and may be used on the second Sabbath of each month when the church offering for missions is taken.

### Among the Klamath Indians

WE are pleased to hear once more from Missionary F. A. Stahl, this time among the Indians in Northern California. From his letter we quote the following experiences:

"The first of June I began work among the Klamath Indians near Weitchpec, on the Klamath River, in Northern California. This is the district in which Doctor Leland has been working among these Indians for the United States Government for some time.

"This is an isolated place, and is very difficult to reach. These Indians, for the most part, have joined the Shaker religion. They dance, jump, and yell, as each Indian takes a dinner bell in each hand. When they begin this ceremony, the noise is frightening. They chant and dance and work themselves into a frenzy, both men and women, jumping higher and higher; and after an hour or so of this chanting and yelling some one or two will begin to shake, sticking their hands out straight in front of them. Then they 'have the power.' I attended one meeting, and I never want to be at another. It is a sad sight! It reminded me of the service of the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. The power that they get is surely not of the Lord. They are a poor, deceived people.

"I asked for the use of their church, and the head Shakers consented. Afterward they regretted it, but I am still permitted to go on using their building. God has given me great favor with these Indian people, and some are becoming deeply interested in God's truth for this time.

"I did not criticize them in their belief. I told them that I have loved the Indians since I was a youth, which is true; for when other boys would insult them, I would always defend them. They used to come to our house, and to my great delight my mother would give them food. I told them that God had more light for them, that God is impartial, that God makes no distinction between men, that this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all nations. I chose for my text Acts 17:26; and for the second, Matthew 7:21; and then others on the importance of the word of God.

"Then came their general conference which their 'great leader' attended. So many meetings were held

that the people were exhausted. After they had rested, and the leaders had gone, they again began coming to our meetings. All the while I have been visiting them in their homes, which pleases them.

"This first day I arrived, I saw no one. That night I slept in my car. I thought that perhaps the people were keeping away from me on purpose, but in the morning an old Indian came to me, and after finding that I understood the care of the sick, he asked me to go with him to visit three families. In each case I was permitted to help them, and in each case I prayed for them. This impressed them.

"As I was on my way down the river, I received word from Doctor Leland to come and take charge of an Indian funeral for which he had made the arrangements. I met the doctor there, and conducted the funeral. The people seemed to be impressed.

"While these Shaker leaders were here, taking up all the people's time, a young man died, and the Indians wanted me to take charge of the funeral. The head man of the Shakers also came to where I was staying and invited me to conduct the funeral. At this second funeral there was an extraordinarily large gathering. When all was ready, one of the Shaker leaders came in and said, 'You do not need to take charge of this funeral, for we have decided that we will take full charge now.' 'Do not forget,' I said, 'that I have made preparation, and I have missed other engagements to help you at this funeral, and I think I should continue.' The man was taken back at this, for I was quite cool about it all. Then he said, 'I will go and see Mr. Jack about this.' All the people waited to hear the verdict, for the man had talked loudly. Then he came in and said, 'Mr. Jack said for you to go on, and he will take the meeting after you.' So I went on.

"First I sang a solo, 'Someday the Silver Cord Will Break.' The people were in good order. Then I read those wonderful texts that tell of this life; death's sleep, the resurrection—which they had never heard before—and of God's remedy for sin. I talked a whole hour, for had I not seen them in meeting for five hours? They sat comfortably, listening with interest to what was said. After I finished, I introduced Mr. Jack, telling the people he was to have a part in this service. At the close of his talk he said, 'I can endorse everything that Mr. Stahl has

said, and I am especially glad for what he said to the young people here.' The leader who had told me that I need not have a part now came running up to me and said, 'Mr. Jack said that you were to take full charge at the grave.' Here again, I had an excellent opportunity. In order to stop the loud weeping, I began to sing, and Mr. Jack came to my side and joined me in the songs. Afterward I shook hands with the people.

"On Sabbath I was called to a distant place to take charge of the funeral of a prominent woman, Daisy Jones, where there was another great concourse of people. I took this opportunity to tell them how glad I was to be there with them to help them, and although I had had to travel some distance, I could not refuse to come. As I held up the Bible, I said, 'How could I refuse to bring to you the wonderful message contained in God's word?' God gave me liberty, and after the service the people came to thank me for coming.

"The message is becoming known throughout this whole Indian region. Now some of the leaders are attending the meetings, even on Sabbath, for I want them to become accustomed to attending meetings on the Sabbath day. I sincerely ask you to pray for this work here. There is a terrible struggle going on at this time. God will bless, and I am sure there are honest souls here."

### Nurses at Work in Danger Zones

DR. HERBERT LIU, who was trained in our medical school, writes from Chungking, West China:

"The medical relief work in Chungking is of a temporary nature; all plans are laid with that in mind. The main relief hospital opened its doors with two patients. From that small beginning the patronage has gradually grown until at present there are seventy-four patients in the hospital. The work of the outpatient clinic has grown until now there is an average of sixty patients a day. There was a time when we had one hundred patients in the hospital, but that was too many to care for properly in our limited space. Many are waiting for opportunity to come in.

"The overcrowded condition in the city, the frequent air raids, with destruction and burning of houses, have multiplied manifold. This institution was certainly established at the right time.

"We thank God for His blessing on the institution. He has protected us in many dangerous situations. Many times our nurses have gone out in the midst of air raids to do emergency work, and lives have been saved through their efforts. We are grateful for this opportunity to relieve human suffering and thus to serve the Master. We constantly pray that patients who come to us for physical help may receive also spiritual blessing. Remember us in your prayers."

### They Come Only to Help Us

It was down in Mexico. A nephew of a prominent general, a Brother Abadon, had purchased one of our medical books. He and his wife had studied it until they were able to apply the principles of hydrotherapy treatments successfully. A colporteur informed them of an opening that offered opportunity for fruitful services in another state in which he was working. So they moved there. Superintendent C. E. Wood tells us of experiences in their new field:

"When they arrived in Patamharo they began to visit the people and treat the sick. They also spent much time in giving Bible studies, with such success that a strong opposition was aroused, and they were denounced before the authorities as being engaged in a seditious work. Brother Abadon was arrested and brought before the *presidente municipal*. When the people who had received treatments for their sick heard that Brother Abadon had been arrested, they gathered at the office of this official. The decision of the authorities was that Brother and Sister Abadon should leave the town at once. But the people cried out: 'Why will you send away these people who have come only to help us? They have healed our diseases, and have taught us how to live so that we will not be sick.'

"When the authorities heard this general testimony of the people, they reversed their decision, and gave Brother and Sister Abadon permission to continue their work.

"This couple spent three months of medical missionary ministry in this state, with the result that a Sabbath school of ninety members was organized at Laureles, one of eighty members at Patambaro, and one of thirty members at Anona. These three Sabbath schools of 200 members are the first companies of Seventh-day Adventists in this state."

### Wending Their Way In

New appointees to a strange mission field spend much time working their way into the hearts and homes of the people with their strange customs and new tongues. From Wenchow, Chekiang (Ke'jong) Province, South China, Ralph H. Dinsbier gives a fragment of their entering-in experiences. He and his wife left Washington, bound for China, just before all missionaries' sailings were canceled in August, 1937. Before they reached their destination, their boat was diverted to the port of Hong Kong because of hostilities at Shanghai. He writes:

"We have planned to come to Wen-

chow ever since we landed in China, and we finally reached here the first of March, 1939. This is a beautiful place. It is back from the sea coast about twenty miles on the Wenchow River. There are several abrupt, high hills all around, and on each is a high pagoda. There is one near our compound that leans like the tower of Pisa.

"The city is typical of China. Some of the streets are so narrow that one can reach out and touch the houses on both sides with his hands. The streets are all paved with rough stones. All through the city, as well as in every direction out into the country, are dozens of canals. One can hire a canal boat and go almost anywhere.

"China has many dialects. This place has its own, and it is perhaps one of China's most difficult. It is no more like Mandarin than German is like English. I had studied Mandarin before I came here, but I felt perfectly helpless in this place. However, I have been studying the local dialect, and have already preached in it twice. Remember us in your prayers that many honest hearts here may be won for Christ."

### That Something Hidden Away

MISSIONARY G. P. CRAGER, superintendent of the Central American Union, tells of an incident which occurred during a tent effort in his field, and which pertained to one who had but recently experienced the joy of obeying Bible truth. He writes:

"If one had \$100 or so in the bottom of his trunk when he accepted this truth, do you think he should pay tithe on it?"

"To this question I replied that I thought this would be the right thing to do, for if through the years God gave us strength to earn a living when we did not recognize Him as a partner, surely when we accept the truth, we ought to consider that God has a right

to His share of whatever we may have left of those earnings, and ought therefore to give Him His tithe. But I told the brother he must pray over it, and decide for himself. Two weeks later, as I was looking over the treasurer's report, I found a nice little sum to the credit of this brother.

"I greatly rejoice when I see the Spirit of God working in this way on the hearts of our people, and I know that this step will bring spiritual and temporal blessing to each one who thus honors God with that portion which He claims as His own."

### Pressing Into Virgin Territory

MISSIONARY E. R. COLSON, who has spent some time with missionaries in Nigeria, West Africa, tells of one virgin section in the mountains near where but recently a worker has established a station. He writes:

"Most of the inhabitants live high up on the steep, rock-covered mountainsides. In looking up, you would not think there was a soul around. We met with several groups. One Monday morning about two hundred men came down to the place where we had built a small school and church building. The natives wore practically nothing. The women as yet were too timid to venture away from their mountain recesses. The chief, however, had been persuaded that there was now no more danger from the Fulani warriors, and had built his residence on the plain close to our little chapel. After we had met the chief, he expressed the desire of his people to learn more about God and His ways. These raw heathen came together every week, generally upon a Sabbath afternoon, to hear more about Jesus and His saving grace.

"One chief, who was bitterly opposed to us, tried to show the people on two Sabbaths in succession where the man with the evil spirit was by cutting a chicken's throat and letting it loose. They had the belief that such a chicken would run in the direction of the evil one. The chief had purposely placed the chicken on the path that led down toward our mission compound, but think of the reaction and the surprise of the chief and his people when the chicken made a dash straight for the chief! The first Sabbath the chief said it was a bad chicken, and that the next Sabbath he would find a better one, but he failed the second time also. The second one was no more submissive or obedient to the chief's desire than the first. It also made a beeline for him. Just then our teacher came along, and the chief acknowledged his failure, and made him welcome to come to his village as often as he wished. There are great possibilities in that part of Africa. In a very short time we shall no doubt have hundreds and even thousands of believers among those simple mountaineers."

MISSION BOARD.

